

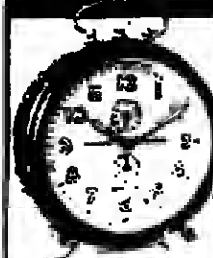
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ARAB TIMES

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Kuwait condemns Israeli threat

KUWAIT yesterday renewed its support for Saudi Arabia's purchase of long-range missiles and said Israel's reaction to the move would "jeopardise peace efforts" in the Middle East.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed said that the cabinet discussed at its regular session Israeli statements indicating Israel may carry out a pre-emptive strike on the Chinese-made missiles.

These CSS-2 missiles, which can carry nuclear warheads, have a range of 2,200 miles (3,500 kms) and could hit any Middle East capital.

Intention

Saudi Arabia has said it had no intention of equipping them with nuclear warheads.

Rashed said his government "strongly condemns these irresponsible (Israeli) threats."

The Israeli statements, he said, "jeopardise peace efforts in the Middle East."

Rashed said Kuwait supports "the kingdom's right to shore up its defence capabilities."

"The cabinet calls on all peace-loving powers to translate their principled obligations into effective measures to deter the inclinations of aberration and stubbornness demonstrated by the Israeli entity," he said.

Kuwait demanded that the United States should revoke its decision to close the PLO observer office at the UN.

The cabinet expressed deep appreciation for the General Assembly resolution favouring continued operation of the PLO.

The cabinet welcomed the results of the Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in Amman.

Summer time

ISTANBUL, March 27, (Reuters). Clocks moved one hour forward to summer time in Turkey today, bringing the country's time system three hours ahead of GMT.

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پاکستان کے پاس تین اہم

بمباریں مئی آئی اے کا دعویٰ

تران اور اصفانہ پر عراقی

میزانوں کے تھے حملے

راولپنڈی میں بم کا دھماکا

ایک طوم کو سترائے موت

بگڑے دیش میں کابینہ توڑ دی

مکی

شارجہ میں بھارت نے

نیوزی لینڈ کو ہوا

مسئلہ افغانستان پر اہم

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Arafat studying report on meeting PLO welcomes Shultz' talks with Palestinians

BAGHDAD, March 27, (Agencies). The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) today welcomed talks between US Secretary of State George Shultz and two Palestinian leaders in Washington.

"We consider the meeting an important political step because it was between Shultz and two members of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the highest legislative body in the PLO," said Bassam Abu Sherif, an advisor to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

American Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughud met Shultz yesterday and said they had told him the PLO was the legitimate representative of the Palestinians and any peace settlement must provide for Palestinian independence.

"There is a Palestinian nation (and) we made that point over and over again," to Shultz, who "expressed understanding," said told reporters after talks. "I certainly don't feel Secretary Shultz disagreed at all."

Return

The State Department said yesterday Shultz will return to the Middle East next Sunday in a fresh bid to win acceptance for US peace proposals for the region.

Abu Sherif said that Arafat had authorised Said and Abu Lughud to meet Shultz and they had reported on their talks to the



Said (left) and Abu Lughud talk with reporters after meeting Shultz. (Reuters wirephoto)

PLO chief

He said their report was now being studied by Palestinian leaders. He reiterated a PLO demand that it should attend any international Middle East peace conference on an equal footing with all other parties.

He said Palestinians wanted to end Israel's occupation of Arab territory and sought recognition of their right to self-determination, which he added was the key to real peace.

Israel opposed Shultz' meeting with the two Palestinians on the grounds that it violated US policy not to deal with the PLO. US State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the Palestinians had conveyed no message from Arafat and had not described themselves as PLO representatives.

"This was a very useful exchange of views as far as the Secretary was concerned," said Redman.

The talks, which lasted several hours, enabled Said and Abu Lughud "to express some of the concerns of the Palestinian-American community as well as of Palestinians more generally," Redman said.

But they were "not a negotiating channel or framework" for peace proposals, said Redman, adding: "No one has said no" to the recent US peace proposal, which "is still on the table."

"We consider the meeting to be a step forward in current American efforts and policy to facilitate a peacemaking process, which would involve the relevant

parties, including the PLO, the representatives of the Palestinian people, and would also involve the United Nations and the parties directly," Said and Abu Lughud said in a joint statement.

"We ... conveyed (to Shultz) the commitment of the Palestinian people to a settlement premised upon the Palestinian right to self-determination and the implementation of all UN resolutions relevant to Palestine and the Middle East conflict," they said.

But neither man would state if that meant the PLO or the PNC had moved closer to accepting UN resolutions 242 and 338, which recognise Israel's right to exist and calls for the return of territories seized by Israel in 1967 — the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

Occupation

Said and Abu Lughud said they expressed to Shultz "the urgent need to lift Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as a preparatory step on the road to achieving peaceful coexistence between Palestinian Arabs and Israeli Jews."

"I think it is clear that the United States government is not yet ready for the participation of the PLO in an international peace conference at this time," Abu Lughud said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid said the meeting between Shultz and the Palestinians was a "positive and constructive step in the right

direction."

"It is necessary to have a direct dialogue between the United States and the Palestinians in order to give a push to the peace effort," Abdel-Meguid said.

Said Kamal, a member of the Palestinian National Council, said the meeting between Shultz and Said and Abu Lughud "was not an American decision in as much as it was an Arab demand, pressed by the Egyptian leadership."

"The meeting, which is the first of its kind, is an international recognition that the PLO is a principal party in any settlement of the Middle East problem," Kamal said.

"By this meeting," Kamal said, "Shultz has completed his contacts with all the local and international parties for explaining his plan for peace in the Middle East."

But we will have to wait before we make an assessment of the results of this meeting," Kamal said.

In another development, an unnamed Palestinian source quoted by the Middle East News Agency, said Arafat will visit Moscow at the head of PLO delegation in the first half of April.

The exact date of the visit is being set at present in contacts between PLO and Soviet officials, the source said.

The aim of the visit, he said, is to talk about "the international Middle East peace conference."

Israeli cabinet clashes as 4 more die Widespread violence despite crackdown

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 27, (Reuters). Israeli troops shot dead four more Palestinians and made further wide-scale arrests in the occupied territories today as the cabinet held a stormy but inconclusive session on a US peace plan for the Middle East.

At a heated cabinet meeting, right-wing Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir repeated his objections to peace proposals by US Secretary of State George Shultz, due back in the Middle East for another mediation effort from next Sunday.

Ministers from Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party called for acceptance of the Shultz plan, which foresees an international peace conference next month to launch direct Arab-Israeli talks on Palestinian self-rule in the riot-torn occupied territories.

Tense

"It was very tense and snappy. Peres walked out of the room at one point," a cabinet aide told reporters.

Three Arabs were killed and several wounded in the occupied West Bank village of Maythah, near Jenin, when stone-throwing residents attacked soldiers who arrived on a pre-dawn raid to arrest suspected activists, security sources said.

Jenin Hospital said Fahem Noerati, 26, and Ghassan Noerati, 17, were pronounced dead on arrival early today. A third victim, Omar Rabayah, 21, who was shot in the heart, arrived dead at Al Itihad Hospital in Nablus.

The Army said rioters pelted troops with axes and rocks and two Arab cars tried to run over soldiers.

A fourth Palestinian was shot dead in Safit, south of Nablus, when an Army patrol sent to rescue a tourist bus under attack was set upon by a crowd wielding knives and stones, a military

spokesman said.

The shootings took the Palestinian death toll to at least 114 in an uprising that began last Dec 9. One Israeli soldier has been killed during the unrest.

Despite mass arrests, increasingly severe economic sanctions and Israeli attempts to disrupt and demoralise underground leaders of the unrest, widespread violence was again reported in the West Bank.

UN relief workers in the Gaza Strip said the Army had arrested hundreds of local youths in nightly raids under curfew in the last few days.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) said in a statement that 400 Palestinians had been beaten by troops in a single week in the Gaza Strip alone.

In an attempt to break long-running commercial strikes, Israeli troops harried all Gaza shops from opening for the last three days, including food markets and pharmacies, residents said.

Several traders who violated the order were arrested, they said. A merchant who complained said the military governors of Gaza City told him shops would be closed at least until the end of the month.

Supplies

UN officials also said the Army cut off electricity supplies to the Deir Al Balah refugee camp, one of four Gaza Strip camps under curfew, in an apparent attempt to punish the population for unrest.

At Halhoul, near Hebron, Palestinians beat an Israeli bus driver and torched his vehicle, after Jewish settlers rampaged through the village firing automatic weapons and smashing windows, security sources said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Baby snatched, sold for \$60

AMRITSAR, India, March 27, (Reuters). A newly born boy was seriously ill today after being snatched from a north Indian hospital and sold for 800 rupees (\$60), police said.

The boy was discovered suffering from pneumonia in a Punjab village a few hours after being

spurred out of an Amritsar hospital by a woman posing as a midwife.

Three people were arrested, police said, including a village woman who had agreed to buy the child because an operation had left her unable to bear any more of her own.

India rejects Israeli plan to destroy Pakistani N-plant

LONDON, March 27, (Kuna). India has rejected an Israeli proposal for joint action to destroy a uranium plant in Pakistan which is assumed to be accumulating enough material for three atomic bombs, according to a report here today.

The Observer newspaper said that Israel feared that the Pakistani bomb factory would supply the Arab world with nuclear capability.

It claimed that Israel made the approaches to Indian diplomats in Paris.

In the meantime the CIA estimated that Pakistan might already have assembled three atomic bombs.

Concern

The Observer maintained that Israel's long-term concern about Pakistan has also been communicated to India, but because India and Israel do not maintain diplomatic missions in each other's capitals, diplomats from both sides have met in secret in Paris to discuss military collaboration against Pakistan.

However, the Indians expressed their reluctance to provide Israel with any information.

The publication noted that although their talks extended over several sessions, the Indians decided against cooperating with the Israelis.

Rajiv to meet Prabhakaran

COLOMBO, March 27, (Kuna). Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a change of heart has apparently agreed to meet Tamil rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran for discussion to resolve the current ethnic problem in Sri Lanka, according to political sources here today.

These sources said a message from Rajiv has been conveyed to Prabhakaran through the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam office in Madras.

Prabhakaran is to be flown to New Delhi from Sri Lanka for the discussions, the sources said.

They said this change of heart of Rajiv is a direct result of the elections that are to be held in India's Tamil Nadu where he wants his party to win since there is widespread feeling in the southern state that Tamils in Sri Lanka are being indiscriminately slaughtered.



Salvage tugs spray the Indian tanker Jainsarayan Vyas which was set ablaze during an Iranian attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ershad replaces premier in reshuffle

DHAKA, March 27, (AP). President Hussain Muhammad Ershad announced a new 32-member council of ministers today, replacing Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Choudhury but retaining other key aides in important positions.

Choudhury was replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Maudud Ahmed, a British-trained lawyer, who will also have the industries ministry. Political observers said that Choudhury may be chosen as Speaker of the 300-member Parliament.

Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Choudhury and Finance Minister Maj. Gen. Abdul Munem retained their portfolios.

The new council was announced after Ershad won the controversial March 3 elections boycotted by the opposition. His Jatiya Party has 251 of the 300 seats in Parliament.

Two of the three deputy prime ministers retained their posts. They are Shah Moazzem Hussain, who also heads rural development and local government ministries, and Abdul Matin, another Jatiya Party stalwart, who is in charge of the home ministry.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, a political advisor to the President, was elevated to the rank of a deputy prime minister.

Political analysts said there would not be any major shift in Ershad's policy of neo-alignment and free-market economy with the new cabinet.

The new council has twenty three ministers and nine state or lower ranking ministers. Five cabinet members, including the prime minister, were dropped while four state ministers were

Chemical attack allegations Iraq denounces UN chief for 'biased' comment

BAGHDAD, March 27, (Reuters). Iraq blasted UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar today for his recent charge that Iraq appears to have used chemical weapons in the Gulf war.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Nizar Hamdoun in a statement said the secretary-general's statement was biased and "ignored a most important fact, namely Iraq's occupation of an Iraqi city despite the Security Council mandatory resolution 598 which called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement."

Hamdoun was referring to the northeastern Iraqi town of Halabja which Iran seized in a cross-border thrust last week.

Iran and Kurdish rebels say Baghdad killed 5,000 people when it dropped chemical bombs on Halabja and other towns in Iraqi Kurdistan after Iranian troops captured them.

Iran called for world condemnation of Iraq for using chemical weapons.

Failure

Perez de Cuellar, who is sending two experts to Iran to probe the charges, has said he was saddened by the "considerable and most serious" evidence that Iraq had used the internationally-banned chemical weapons.

Hamdoun said the secretary-general's statement reflected failure by him and some members of the Security Council "to face Iran's intransigence and pronounce the necessity to punish its non-compliance with resolution 598, which expressed the overwhelming will of the international community."

The aim of the visit, he said, is to talk about "the international Middle East peace conference."

Missile duel intensifies Indian tanker hit by Iranians

NICOSIA, March 27, (Agencies). Iran and Iraq fired missiles into each other's capitals in a brutal long-range duel today as Iranian troops punched deeper into northeast Iraq, occupying strategic heights that overlook a key hydroelectric dam.

Shipping officials reported Iranian gunboats attacked the 24,529-ton Indian tanker Jainsarayan Vyas in the southern Gulf today, wounding one crewman and setting it on fire.

Shipping sources said the wounded Indian crew member was not seriously hurt in the raid which punched 14 holes in the side of the Jainsarayan Vyas.

Blaze

Firefighting tugs put out the blaze and the tanker needed no further assistance, the sources said.

The ship, the seventh neutral vessel attacked in the last week by Iran, was hit 16 miles northwest of Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE.

Shipping sources said the vessel, owned by the Bombay-based Shipping Corporation of India, was on its way in ballast to the Saudi Arabian port of Jubail.

After a brief lull, the Gulf shipping war flared again when Iraq hit two supertankers at Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal on March 19. More than 50 seamen were believed killed.

The Iraqis fired a long-range Al Hussein missile into Tehran, after vowing to "level Iran's cities," the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

Minutes later, another missile was launched on Tehran and two into the central city of Isfahan, INA said.

The Iraqis said the missiles hit residential neighbourhoods, causing unspecified casualties.

The Islamic Republic News Agency, said Revolutionary

guards fired two missiles at Baghdad.

The agency said the missiles were aimed at "two military targets" in retaliation for Iraqi missiles that hit Tehran yesterday, killing at least seven civilians and hitting an orphanage.

Baghdad Radio reported only one Iranian missile hit Baghdad, exploding in a residential district and demolishing houses, shops and cars. It said there were "many civilians killed or wounded, including women and children."

Basra

The radio made no mention of a second Iranian missile.

Tehran Radio reported that the Iraqis also fired four missiles at "industrial and military installations" in the strategic southern Iraqi port of Basra, and two other border towns further north today.

Basra, Al Amara, a major military staging area to the north and nine other towns in the southern and central sectors of the 730-mile (1,180-km) front line were pounded with artillery fire yesterday and today, Baghdad Radio said.

In the meantime, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper in London said that Iran has been unable to achieve a decisive breakthrough in recent offensives against established Iraqi positions around the town of Basra.

In addition, the publication reported that the Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini has now moved to the slopes of the Caspian mountains where a reinforced bunker has been installed for him after successive Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran.

His home is also encircled by anti-aircraft missiles and guns and a maze of villas occupied by

(Continued on Page 2)

Seven militant Sikhs released

CHANDIGARH, March 27, (Reuters). The Indian government has released seven suspected Sikh militant leaders from detention without trial in a renewed bid to thwart separatists in the north Indian state of Punjab.

Police in the state capital Chandigarh said today three sus-

pects were released today and two each yesterday and Friday from jails in Punjab.

Indian authorities detained hundreds of suspected militants after the Indian Army stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhdom's holiest shrine, in June 1984 to flush out militants.

INTERNATIONAL

Kabul can fight rebels: Army chief

ISLAMABAD, March 27, (Agencies): Afghanistan's military chief said today his forces were well-equipped to fight Western-backed rebels all over the country.

But armed forces Chief of General Staff General Shahnawaz Tani, quoted by the official Bakhtar news agency, said the Kabul government was eager for the success of the deadlocked UN-mediated peace talks in Geneva.

Bakhtar, monitored in Islamabad, quoted him as saying his forces "crushed the armed and intransigent extremists" who violated a unilateral government ceasefire more than 14,600 times in the past Afghan year which ended on March 20.

Signs
But the interview made no mention of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops which Moscow has offered to withdraw after neighbouring Pakistan signs the UN peace plan.

The Afghan Army has been depleted by casualties and desertions during nine years of war, Western diplomats and Afghan exiles say.

The present size of the mostly conscripted Afghan Army is 45,000 men, almost half of what it was before the 1978 Marxist takeover, according to the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

But Tani said the Afghan forces had "acquired a special strength" and have been equipped with military, political and practical experience.

Afghan President Najibullah ordered a unilateral ceasefire in January last year as part of a "national reconciliation" drive but it was rejected by the guerrillas.

Offered
Moscow has offered to begin withdrawing its troops two months after the peace accord in Geneva is signed and complete the process within nine months.

But the accord has been held up by disputes over a future Afghan government and Soviet military supplies to Kabul.

Four Afghan refugees were killed and four others sustained serious injuries when a bomb exploded on Friday night in a shop at a border village in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, according to reports reaching here.

Aid
The US State Department was close to proposing a halt in covert US military aid to Afghan rebels in exchange for the agreement by the Soviets to withdraw from Afghanistan, but President Reagan rejected the idea, say current and former administration officials in Washington.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said after talks last week in Washington that Reagan's tougher line was the final obstacle to Kremlin acceptance of a UN-brokered deal to get Soviet troops out of Afghanistan. But he said the Soviets might pull out even without a UN agreement.

Last December, Reagan said military assistance to the Afghan rebels would continue until the Soviets were completely out of Afghanistan. But the Washington Post reported yesterday that the administration already is ending the supply of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles in anticipation of a peace settlement.

Virtual tie for Democratic Party's nomination

Jackson demolishes Dukakis in Michigan

LANSING, Mich., March 27, (Reuters): Black activist Jesse Jackson overwhelmed Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in Michigan's presidential caucuses, propelling himself into a virtual tie for the lead for the Democratic Party's nomination in the November election.

With Vice-President George Bush having all but secured the Republican nomination, the latest Democratic contest yesterday left two serious contenders for the nomination.

The outcome gave a filip to Jackson's chances, underscoring Dukakis' failure to make his long-expected break from the pack of Democratic hopefuls.

Reassessing
It also left the three other remaining Democratic contenders far back and reassessing their sparring campaigns.

With 94 per cent of the vote from Michigan tallied before officials suspended counting, Jackson had 107,689 or 55 per cent, Dukakis 55,337 or 28 per cent and Missouri congressman Richard Gephardt 24,995 or 13 per cent.

Senator Paul Simon of Illinois was fourth with two per cent, slightly ahead of Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee.

In terms of delegates to be sent to the Democratic nominating convention in Atlanta in July, party officials in Michigan said Jackson appeared to have taken 76 in yesterday's voting, Dukakis 53 and Gephardt nine. It was Jackson's first win in a major northern industrial state.

Going into the voting, Duk-

akis had a 24-delegate edge over Jackson according to ABC news. Applying the party's unofficial figures, Dukakis would have 612 and Jackson 611 of the 2,082 needed for nomination.

Message
The attention turned immediately to Tuesday's primary in the northeastern state of Connecticut and the primary one week later in northern Wisconsin.

Jackson said Michigan's voters had responded "to the message, to the authenticity and soul of Jesse Jackson against the money and high technology of my opposition," an apparent reference to Dukakis' well-financed campaign.

He called his win "tremendous" and dismissed suggestions that the party would be reluctant to award the nomination to a black who has never held public office.

"The party will respect the will of the people," he said. A debate pitting him as the party's nominee against Bush, he said, would transform the country.

Dukakis said he has always viewed the race as a marathon in which nothing could be taken for granted.

Prospects
The three other Democrats in the field faced grimmer prospects.

Gephardt, who had hoped his strong trade protectionist policies would help in a state battered by industrial imports, told supporters he would make an announcement in the next few days about his campaign.



Jesse Jackson (centre) holds up two children after a rally at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. (Reuter wirephoto)

Vanunu jailed for 18 years

TEL AVIV, March 27, (Reuters): Former nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu was sentenced to 18 years in prison today for spilling Israel's atomic secrets over the front page of a British newspaper.

A three-judge court, which last week convicted Vanunu of treason and espionage, could have imposed a maximum life sentence. Twenty scientists, including 12 Nobel prize winners, had appealed for leniency.

Vanunu, 34, worked at Israel's top-secret Dimona nuclear reactor in the Negev desert for nine years before telling his story to London's Sunday Times in September 1986. His trial was held behind closed doors.

Petition
Defence Attorney Avigdor Feldman submitted a petition signed by the 20 scientists at a brief hearing before sentence was imposed. The court accepted the petition, and Vanunu himself briefly addressed the court.

"We appeal to the Israeli court

to recognise that Mordechai Vanunu is a man of conscience, deeply disturbed by his role in a nuclear weapons programme, who first sought religious guidance and then decided to make public his concerns," the petition said.

The 20 signatories included the 1962 Nobel peace prize winner American Linus Pauling and American astronomer Carl Sagan.

Secret
Vanunu told the court his disclosure that Israel produced up to 200 bombs over 20 years was nothing new. His lawyer said Vanunu meant to awaken Israelis to the nuclear problem, not harm their security.

Britain's Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation nominated Vanunu for the 1988 Nobel peace prize.

He was convicted on Thursday of aiding Israel's enemies in war and collecting and passing secret information with the intention of

harming state security. Feldman said after the verdict was announced last week that he would appeal to Israel's Supreme Court.

The whole affair has been shrouded in secrecy and military censorship. Israel has never admitted holding nuclear weapons although it is widely assumed to have them.

The Sunday Times said that after he made his disclosures in 1986, a blonde agent for Israel's Mossad secret service lured Vanunu from London to Italy, promising sex. It said he was then drugged, chained and taken on a ship back to Israel.

Driven from an isolation cell to the courthouse in a police van with whitewashed windows, Vanunu was kept well out of sight of waiting photographers.

Security men took elaborate precautions to prevent repetition of a Dec. 1986 incident, when the prisoner flashed a message scrawled on the palm of his hand to tell reporters he was kidnapped in Rome.

Paralysed men can father a child

DETROIT, March 27, (Reuters): A US research team is making the dream of fathering a child a reality for men paralysed by spinal cord injury and others who have lost the ability to ejaculate semen because of permanent neurological damage.

The technique, developed in the 19th century for use in animal husbandry and refined at the University of Michigan, induces the release of semen with a low-voltage impulse delivered by a rectal probe.

Conception is achieved either through artificial insemination

or in vitro fertilisation.

Researchers say the procedure, which is called electroejaculation, may also help those with testicular cancer, multiple sclerosis or a variety of other disorders that block the nerve signal required to trigger normal ejaculation.

Paul d'Alessandro, a former New York construction worker paralysed from the waist down in an accident four years ago, said he was shattered when doctors told him he would never father a child.

"First you're told you can't

walk again. Then you're told you'll never have kids. It's very devastating," he told Reuters.

On December 30 d'Alessandro's wife Anna gave birth to their first child, 18 months after they began monthly visits to the University of Michigan medical centre in Ann Arbor.

Their son, Paul John Junior, was the fourth birth among participants in the electroejaculation programme. One other baby has been born since then, and three other women are currently pregnant as a result of the technique.

Massive security search in Istanbul

29 tunnel out of top-security jail

ISTANBUL, March 27, (Reuters): Police secured embassies and public buildings throughout Turkey today as 29 leftist extremists who tunneled out of top-security Istanbul jail evaded a massive two-day-old search.

A caller claiming to speak for Tikko, the Turkish Workers Peasants' Liberation Army to which 19 of the escaped prisoners belonged, told the Popular Gunes newspaper Tikko would launch a nationwide guerrilla offensive.

"The great escape of our friends is evidence of the strength of our Army," the Tikko caller said.

Tikko is the small, hardcore military wing of the outlawed Turkish Communist Party-Marxist Leninist (TKP-ML).

Weekend police leave was cancelled and in Ankara special units manned key points of the capital to protect ministries and foreign missions against possible attack.

Audacious
In Istanbul, police found two Soviet-designed Kalashnikov automatic weapons, a pistol and a hand grenade in the basement of an unfinished building near the Metris military prison.

Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan told reporters yesterday that the escape was a "very audacious and big affair."

Vuralhan said the 29 may have received inside help and all

prison staff, including the military commander, were being questioned.

A team of three military investigators headed by a general were conducting investigations inside the Metris military prison, left-leaning Cumhuriyet said.

Cumhuriyet reported a call from an unnamed Tikko member who said, "Our friends are now hidden in places where they cannot be captured. Searching for them would be a futile effort."

The escapees, including 11 sentenced to death for crimes of political violence before the 1980-83 military takeover, cut through iron window bars and escaped through a 60-metre tunnel they had dug earlier.

Checked
The escapees included members of four other banned far-left groups besides Tikko. Eight were serving life sentences and one was awaiting trial.

Police and military teams checked cars, trucks and buses and photographs of the wanted men were sent to Turkey's 67 provinces as well as ports, airports and all border crossings.

Witnesses said some people had been seized by police and the right-wing Tercuman newspaper alleged hundreds were detained.

Special measures were also taken to protect Prime Minister Turgut Ozal on holiday at the northwestern lake resort of Ahant.

27 killed in 3 days of clashes in Philippines

MANILA, March 27, (Agencies): The military reported today 27 people killed in three days of clashes with communist guerrillas and southern commanders warned the rebels plan to mark their upcoming 19th anniversary with more violence.

Field commanders on the strife-torn southern island of Mindanao said their troops were placed on full red alert — their maximum state of readiness — for the Tuesday anniversary of the founding of the communist New People's Army.

The Mindanao commanders said intelligence reports showed the rebels planned to mark the period with attacks on the military and some of the many multi-national companies operating on the island.

Military reports reaching the capital said elite Army rangers killed 10 rebels in a fierce gun battle with some 150 guerrillas in Albay province, some 200 miles (320 km) southeast of Manila on Friday. One soldier was killed.

Scene
The reports said the soldiers recovered four anti-tank landmines from the scene.

In the nearby town of Pamplona, security forces also killed six rebels on Friday. Two more rebels were killed in another encounter.

In the northern Philippines, a 200-man NPA band attacked and burned a remote Army detachment, killing two soldiers and one civilian, the military said.

Ground troops, backed by helicopter gunships, pursued the fleeing rebels, killing five in a 13-hour running battle, a military report said.

The military raised the reward for the capture of the Philippines' top communist leaders today, and urged citizens to point out their hideouts.

Strikes hit disputed Soviet region

MOSCOW, March 27, (Reuters): Strikes in protest at the Kremlin's refusal to concede demands by ethnic Armenians for boundary changes brought a halt to the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Soviet newspapers said today.

The official media also acknowledged that inadequate reporting of disturbances connected with a campaign to return control of Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia contributed to violence in which at least 32 people have died.

Control
The territory, populated mainly by ethnic Christian Armenians, has been under control of the neighbouring Muslim Republic of Azerbaijan since 1923.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda and Izvestia, the Soviet government daily, said the stoppage had closed down most factories in the regional capital, Stepanakert.

"Enterprises in the town are not working, apart from essential sectors, such as bakeries, dairies, water supply plants and transport," Izvestia said in a report from Stepanakert.

NEWS IN BRIEF

General shot dead

VITORIA, Spain, March 27, (Reuters): Hooded gunmen shot dead a retired airforce general today as he came out of church in the Basque town of Vitoria, the regional government said.

General Luis Azcaraga, 81, was shot at point blank range by two men who then ran off.

Death for rape

CAIRO, March 27, (AP): A Cairo court has sentenced three workers to death by hanging and ordered three others be imprisoned for life for raping a 15-year-old student, Egyptian newspapers reported yesterday.

Rebels killed

ADYAMAN, Turkey, March 27, (Reuters): Turkish security forces have killed four Kurdish rebels in the rugged southeastern province of Adiyaman, official sources said today.

Widespread violence despite crackdown

(Continued from Page 1)
There were unconfirmed reports that at least one resident was wounded by the settlers' gunfire.

Palestinian residents reported clashes after church services in Bethlehem, Ramallah, Beit Sahour and the Kalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem.

Troops in Ramallah smashed the windows of a freelance photographer's car with rubber bullets and fired tear gas into the vehicle, witnesses said.

Closed

The city of 30,000 residents was declared a closed military area. The Palestine Press Service (PPS) also reported severe clashes in the village of Burka, near Hebron.

Palestinian sources said troops made nighttime raids in several West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinian refugee camps.

An Army spokeswoman said she had strict orders not to disclose figures for the number of arrests, administrative detentions without trial or new prison camps opened.

Ershad replaces ...

(Continued from Page 1)
promoted to the rank of minister.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wazad Ali Khan and Women's Affairs Minister Maj. Shamsul Haq were among those dropped from the new council. A.B.M. Golam Mustafa, the commerce secretary, was inducted as the lone non-parliamentarian in the cabinet as energy minister.

Opposition
The opposition, which has campaigned for Ershad's resignation since Nov 10, has given a deadline of April 8 to quit his post or face fresh agitation.

The top opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleida Zia, said there is no legal basis for Ershad's presidency. They have called for a neutral, interim government and fresh elections.

They also say the voter turnout in the latest poll was very low while the government claims it was more than 50 per cent.

Indian tanker hit

(Continued from Page 1)
his bodyguards, it added.

The Iranian News Agency said Revolutionary Guards captured the Shaikh Shamsir heights overlooking a big hydroelectric dam on the southernmost point of the 10-mile (16-km) long lake Darbandkhan.

The facility provides most of the power for the region as well as the capital Baghdad, 120 miles (190 km) to the southeast.

In Istanbul, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said today Turkey might open fire on Iranian jets if they violated its airspace again.

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With reference to the notice given in the press in February this year that owing to an improvement in the value of the US dollar the currency adjustment factor would be suspended as from the 1st March, 1988, the undermentioned lines hereby announce that due to a deterioration in the position of the US dollar since the last calculation made, a CAF of 2 per cent will have to be applied as from the 1st of April, 1988.

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Communications Ministry to launch databank service

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications is to launch in May a local databank service that can be connected to home TV sets providing subscribers with news and useful information. The service known as Videotax is already available for use by the ministries, according to Fadhil Abou Al Hasan, director of marketing and services at the Ministry of Communications. Kuwait television is running a similar service, but narrower in scope. However, the viewers can select the required information.

The Videotax subscribers will be able to do so in May when their TV sets and computer screens are connected to the terminal. The yearly subscription for home users is KD280 while businesses it is KD120. The difference in price is being accounted for by a more elaborate procedure of linking to colour TV sets as opposed to the black and white computer screens, said

Abou Al Hasan.

The service, in English and Arabic, will screen news items provided by the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) and gathered from the local press, and will run information on sports, currency rates, weather and travel.

The Videotax system is currently on display at an exhibition, Electro '88, at the International Fairgrounds in Mishref.

Circuits

The ministry has improved another of its services which gives subscribers access to Teletext and Timenet data centres, each of which polls together several databanks.

The number of circuits has recently been increased from four to 12 circuits allowing a larger number of customers to plug into the system at the same time. This followed a series of complaints from the customers who often found the lines busy.

The main computer, accessible through a telephone line, is stationed in Rome, Italy. Upon

receiving an access code and information on the customer's location and the name of the required databank the computer provides the connection. Almost any type of detailed information is provided through this system including that on business, finance, medicine, and history.

Among the 42 subscribers to Kuwait are hospitals, the university, research institutes and law firms.

Charges

The basic cost for the customer is calculated on an annual basis depending on the speed at which the information is provided. Yearly charges levied by the ministry for using the speed of 300 characters-per-second are KD70 while those who use the 1,200 characters-per-second band pay KD240 per year. Additional charges are levied for each call, each minute and each segment which consists of 250 characters. The cost of entire service is shared between the centre in Rome and the Ministry of Communications as a user.



Sheikh Salem presenting a student with her degree.

Health Week

A HEALTH week will be held from April 7 to 14 under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

The Minister of Health, Dr Abdul Razzak Al Yousef has set up a national committee to prepare and organise celebrations of the Health Week as well as International Health Day. The committee will be headed by Dr Ahmad Al Ayyaf and will include ministry officials and representatives of Kuwait

University, the Ministry of Information, the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and Kuwait Municipality.

The opening ceremony will be held on Wednesday April 6, under the patronage of the Crown Prince at the Social Development Centre in Bayan. An exhibition of health books will be held at the centre in coincidence with the celebrations.

Graduation ceremony

THE Minister of the Interior Sheikh Salem Al Sabah awarded degree certificates to 244 students graduating from the Faculty of Petroleum Engineering at Kuwait University. The Ministers of Public Works, Electricity and Water, Education and Higher Education and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs also attended the ceremony.

The Dean of the Engineering Faculty, Dr Hassan Alawi gave a speech in which he spoke highly of the students' outstanding performance which, he said, matched their counterparts in other international universities.

Killed in accident

AN elderly lady died and two other people were seriously injured when their vanette overturned at high speed on the Fifth Ring Road on Friday evening. According to medical sources the two survivors are in critical condition.

A spokesman for the Traffic Department said that the accident took place on the day before the start of GCC Traffic Week and appealed to the public to co-operate by driving safely and obeying all traffic regulations.

New Health Ministry premises

YOUSSEF Al Ateeqi of the Ministry of Health said that the ministry is scheduled to move into its new premises at the end of the year. He said the delays in construction of the new building were due to design changes requested by the ministry. However, he pointed out that the administrative offices of the Ministry of Health would remain in the present building.

Mr Ateeqi also announced that the plans for the new psychiatric hospital were ready and construction would begin when

the Ministry of Planning had approved the scheme, which is estimated to cost around KD 9 million. When completed, the hospital will have 260 beds. The three storey building has been designed to create a domestic atmosphere to help with the care of in-patients in a homely environment.

Mr Ateeqi then said that the ministry has scrapped the expensive plans for a polyclinic on Failaka. Instead, the ministry is considering the construction of a floating hospital for the island.

The floating hospital will cost around KD 5 million and it will contain all the necessary departments, such as paediatrics, surgery and internal medicine. The capacity will be about fifty beds.

Mr Ateeqi concluded his remarks by announcing that the ministry has postponed plans to build a Natural Therapy Hospital which was estimated to cost around KD 25 million. Instead, the hospital at Sulaibikhat will be renovated and upgraded and a special division for Natural Therapy will be installed there.

Consumers concerned with quality than price

AN Arabic daily has conducted a survey of consumers which found that the majority of people in Kuwait are more concerned with quality than price.

Graduate Ziyad Al Sharaf said that when he buys cosmetics he does not care about the price, only the quality. She added that she thinks newspaper ads are more effective than those on television since they can take the time to explain the merits of the goods. She said it would be foolish to buy poor quality food simply because of its price since it might endanger our health.

Businessman Abdul Razzak Bu Quaris said that some merchants sell cheaply in order to profit from high volume. However, he pointed out that higher prices did not always mean higher quality and consumers should learn about the items they are purchasing.

Khaled Al Shurrah told the paper that he prefers to buy good quality items unless he is looking for items like household utensils when he tries to find the lowest prices. Mohammad Al Qattan said that the government should set up a Consumers Advice Board to help people choose which items to buy. Speaking of foodstuffs he said they should always be fresh and their country or origin clearly marked in order for the customer to be sure they are free of radiation.

Message from Mubarak

DOHA, March 27, (Kuna): The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani today received a verbal message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The message, which was delivered by Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif, dealt with latest Arab developments, bilateral relations and means of boosting them.



● A large number of Filipinos attended Kapilku's regular get-together (Kumustahan), at the Church Hall on Saturday. Picture shows a group of Filipinos entertaining the participants. The Kumustahan is held on the first Saturday of each month.

Time ripe to attack Israel, says Islamic preacher

ABU DHABI, March 27, (Reuters): A prominent Muslim fundamentalist says the time is right for Arab armies to attack Israel.

"Our uprising (in Israeli-occupied territories) has shaken the pillars of Israel and that creates an opportunity for an Arab attack," Sheikh Hamed Al

Betawi, preacher at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa mosque, told Al Ittihad newspaper today.

"Every day we are losing more youths, women are beaten up, and our holy shrines are desecrated... I don't know what is holding them (the Arabs) up", said Betawi, on a visit to the UAE.

Big air show for Dubai next year

A CIVIL and defence aviation exhibition will be held in Dubai from Jan 29 to Feb 2, 1989.

It will be called Dubai 89 - International Aerospace Exhibition and Conference and will combine commercial and military aspects of the industry for the first time.

There will be an air display with demonstration flights, and a major international conference on aviation

will be presented by the UAE national airline, Emirates.

The head of the civil aviation department, Government of Dubai, and chairman of Emirates Airline, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saad, said there was an reason why the exhibition should not become as prestigious and beneficial to the industry as Farnborough, Le Bourget and Singapore.

He said the area of the exhibition's influence will also be expanded to include Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The show will include air transport, business and general aviation, airport equipment, civil aircraft, helicopters, various powerplants, military aircraft, guided weapons, armaments, electronic systems and equipment, non-electronic systems, military aviation, air defence and military ground infrastructure.

Saudi flights

BRITISH Airways have applied for permission to transfer the services to Saudi Arabia from Gatwick Airport back to London Heathrow. The service will be gained by BA under the merger with British Caledonian.

The application was made to the British Civil Aviation Authority, that is due to be discussed at a hearing in London on April 12.

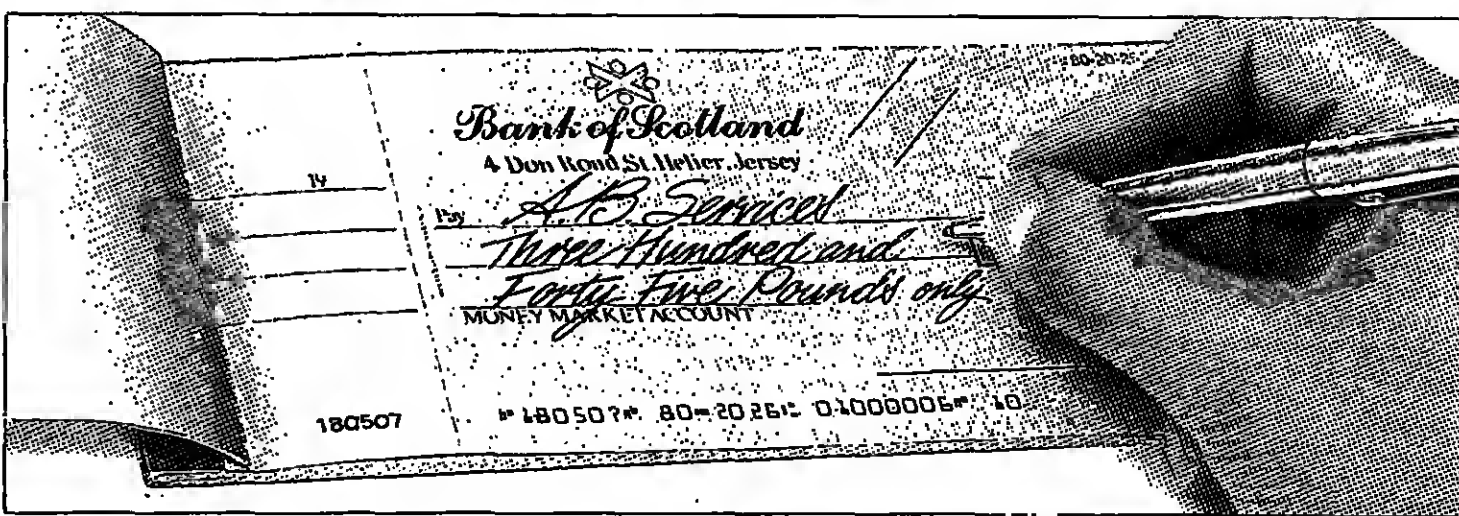
The time-table for the transfer of services has not been announced. The proposed summer schedule is for four direct services a week to Jeddah, two services a week to Riyadh going on to Muscat, and four services weekly to Dhahran, also going on to Muscat.

UAE relief aid

ABU DHABI, March 27, (Kuna): The Italian ship Mirzario today left Port Zayed carrying the first shipment of United Arab Emirates aid to Lebanon.

The shipment, which was sent at the request of UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, include 1,500 tons of foodstuffs.

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Handycam CCD-V30 — The small wonder at the Electro '88



As it has done in the past, Sony has done it again at the Electro '88 Exhibition currently being held at the International Fair Ground, Mishref.

This time Sony amazed the public with its exhibition of the Handycam CCD-V30 Family Video Camera. It's the world's smallest video camera. But size doesn't matter, because the Handycam CCD-V30 delivers the performance of a professional video camera. It provides sharper picture, clearer colours and longer, better recording. In addition, the Handycam CCD-V30 comes with features like Zoom lens with macro function, direct playback, infrared auto focus, auto white balance, backlight control, flying erase head, and electronic viewfinder.

Seeing is believing. Visit the Sony Pavilion at the Electro '88 Exhibition and see how the CCD-V30 makes wonders.

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Traffic Week
GCC cooperation stressed

THE Undersecretary of Kuwait's Interior Ministry, Major-General Yusuf Al Khorafi, yesterday met the director-general of the Traffic Department, Brigadier Fuad Mussaad Al Saleh, who introduced the GCC delegates attending the joint GCC Traffic Week in Kuwait.

Visited
During the meeting Maj Gen Al Khorafi stressed the importance of such occasions for cooperation between member states in upgrading traffic services.

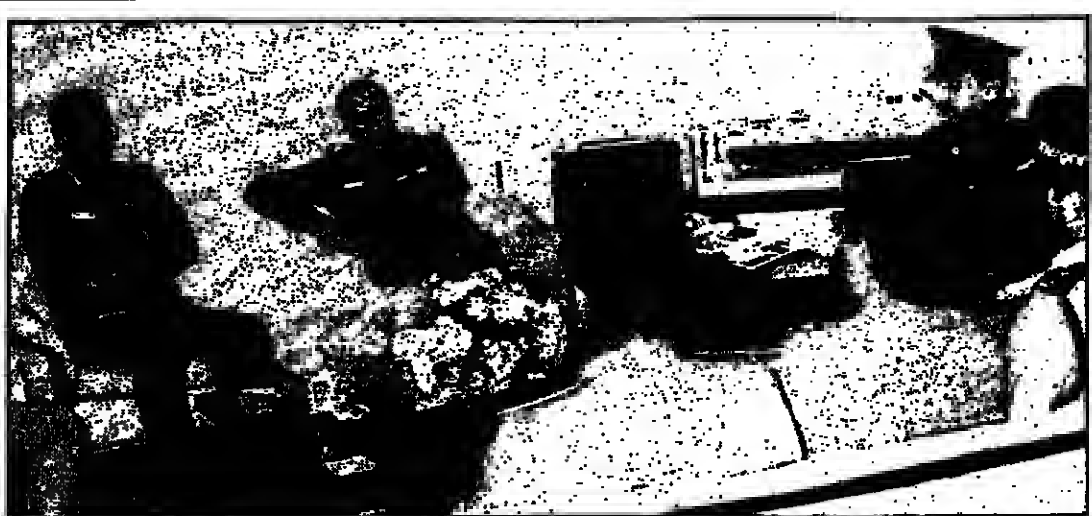
The delegations visited the Emergency Police Department where they went to the operations room and listened to an explanation by Captain Abdul Aziz Al Anjari on the work of the operation room and wireless equipment.

They also visited the Al Maqdesi kindergarten where they watched some traffic competitions.

The delegations later went to see the Waterfront Project.

Meanwhile, as part of the Traffic Week activities, Captain Yacoub Al Fadalal of the Interior Ministry public relations department, gave a lecture at Mubarakiya intermediate school and spoke about the importance of traffic weeks for the GCC.

Al Fadalal will give a talk at the University's Science Faculty tomorrow as part of the functions for the Third National Week for the Handicapped.



Major-General Al Khorafi (second left) is seen with Brig. Al Saleh (left) and GCC delegates.

Medicinal herbs cure many chronic diseases

A CHEMIST at Petrochemicals Industries Company (PIC), Taib Abdulla Al Taib, has claimed that many chronic diseases have been effectively cured by medicinal herbs.

He said that the lettuce and cabbage could cure many dangerous diseases. The cabbage, for instance, was able to cure infections of joints within a week.

Al Taib said he had read about the use of camel's milk in treating cancer patients, but did not believe this until he tried it. He added he used camel's milk to cure a man suffering from brain cancer in Saudi Arabia in a month's time. He also treated a girl suffering from cancer in Kuwait and she was totally cured within a very short time, and a man, who suffered from leukaemia, drank camel's milk daily for a month and was cured.

He stressed that the milk of camels living in the desert was better than that of camels living near the city because the former ate many good herbs.

Al Taib said he had cured many hopeless cases.

US Navy escorts convoy of tankers through Gulf

ABOARD THE USS REUBEN JAMES IN THE GULF, March 27, (AP): The US Navy escorted its 40th convoy of reregistered Kuwaiti tankers into the Gulf yesterday, followed by merchant vessels from other nations seeking informal US protection against an upsurge in attacks by Iranian gunboats.

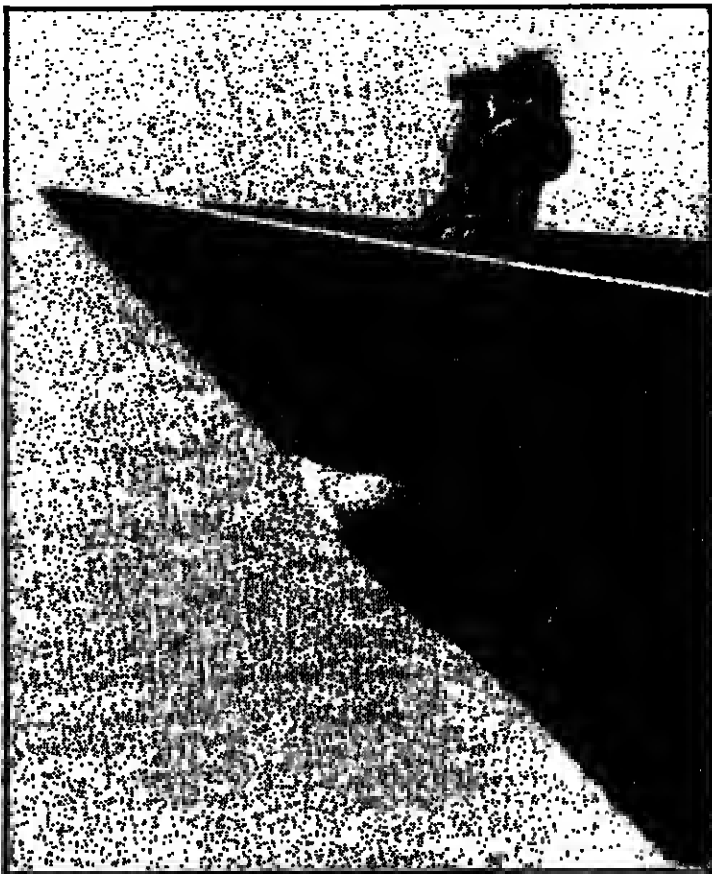
A procession of as many as nine vessels, including two American warships, three US-flagged tankers and at least four non-US ships, slipped through the Strait of Hormuz and past the Iranian gunboat base at Abu Musa at 11 am. (0800 GMT), where the convoy briefly encountered an Iranian warship that steamed down the majestic line of vessels.

The Navy was assigned only to accompany the ships flying the Stars and Stripes. But its presence appeared to suspend for a while the Iranian warship's radio challenges to merchant shipping that often fall victim to Iranian gunboats in the Iran-Iraq tanker war.

The parade of five US ships included two Kuwaiti tankers — the 290,085-ton Middletown, a products carrier, and the 46,723-ton liquefied gas carrier Gas Prince — and the 39,000-ton MV Courier, a US Navy fuel tanker.

The escort was provided by this guided missile frigate, making one of the last voyages in the Gulf before returning home.

Four unidentified tankers joined the convoy as hitch-hikers as it passed through the so-called Silk Worm envelope, a 100-mile (160-km) stretch of the Hormuz passage where vessels come within the 60-mile (100-km) range of Silk Worm anti-ship missile batteries installed by Iran a year ago but never fired.



A US Navy seaman sitting at the bow of the frigate 'USS Samuel B. Roberts' scans the horizon through binoculars in the southern Gulf yesterday. The Samuel B. Roberts and another frigate, the Reuben James were escorting a US convoy heading for northern Gulf. (Reuters wirephoto)

Prince Saud's trip to US postponed

CAIRO, March 27, (UPI): An Egyptian newspaper reported yesterday that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal has decided to postpone a trip to the United States, which was scheduled to begin on Monday.

Egypt's semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said in a dispatch from Washington that Prince Saud decided to postpone his planned visits to New York and Washington as part of an Arab League delegation.

Without giving any reasons why the Saudi official was putting off the visit, the newspaper said members of the delegation — which includes the Syrian and Algerian foreign ministers — were planning to meet US Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington on Tuesday and UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York on Monday.

Minister studying re-evaluation of dentists

HEALTH Minister Dr Abdul Razzak Al Razzak is studying the re-evaluation of the qualifications of certain dentists working in the ministry, according to a local daily.

Sources added that the dental council, under chairman Dr Jassem Hussein, has decided to extend the working hours at the Dental Centre until noon on Thursday. Meanwhile, the minister is seriously considering of increasing working hours every day.

KJA board members meet ministers

INFORMATION Minister, Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad met the chairman and board members of the Kuwait Journalists Association in his office on Saturday morning.

During the meeting the minister expressed his full support for the local press as a vital mission, to serve society by revealing gaps and omissions in the government's work so that such shortcomings might be avoided or corrected. He added the hope that all members of the association should work together as a team and avoid all disputes that give the press a bad reputation.

Sheikh Jaber pointed out that the ministry is paying special attention to the charter of the association in connection with the promulgation of a new law which will be issued in the near future. He stressed that his door was always open for journalists to voice their complaints and suggestions.

Later, members of the KJA met the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed who expressed his ministry's support for the association in order to maintain the high standards and status of the Kuwaiti press.

Nazer meets Malaysian minister

RIYADH, March 27, (Kuna): Saudi Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth and acting Planning Minister Hisham Nazer met here today with Malaysian Foreign Minister Omar Abu Hassan.

Nazer said that he and his Malaysian guest reviewed the role of non-Opec members in stabilising the oil market. The Malaysian minister was briefed on the fields of investment in the kingdom.

Postal summer timings

KUWAIT'S Post Office Department has announced the postal timings that come into effect from April 1.

The administrative sections, postal parcel delivery office Keifan, and parcel section Ahmadi, will be open from 7 am to 1 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, from 7 am to 11 am on Thursday, and closed on Friday.

The mail sorting centre, General Post Office, Safat post office, and Muntazpost section will be open from 7 am to 7 pm from Saturday to Thursday, and from 8 am to 10 am on Friday.

Salmiya central, Jahra (Alqaser), Hawalli and Fahadhel central post offices will be open from 7 am to 7 pm from Saturday to Thursday and will be closed on Friday.

Surface mail
The surface mail office will be open from 7 am to 7 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, from 7 am to 1 pm on Thursday and from 8 am to 10 am on Friday.

Ahmadi post office will be open from 7 am to 7 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, from 7 am to 3 pm on Thursday and closed on Friday.

Nuwaiseh, Shuaiba, Wafra and Zoor post offices will be open from 7.30 am to 2.30 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, and closed on Thursday and Friday.

Airport
The international airport post office at Terminal 1 will be open from 7 am to 1 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, from 7 am to 1 pm on Thursday and closed on Friday. The post office at Terminal No.2 will continue to be open for 24 hours.

Post offices at Abraq Kheitan, Abu Halifa, Ardhiya, Asqool, Bayan, Dasma, Dasman, Dhahyat Abdulla Al Salem, Daiya, Doha, Adailiya, Faiba, Fallaka, Farwaniya, Fintas, Firdous, Industrial Shuwaikh, Taima (Jahra 4), Jaleeb Al Shiyookh, Keifan, Khaldiya, Mansouriya, Nuzha, Omariya, Qadisiya, Raas, Rabiya, Rigga, Rumailiya, Rawda, Sabahiya, Shamiya, Shuwaikh 'B', Shaab, Sulabikhat, Wahaa (Jahra 5) and Umm Al Heitan will be open from 8 am to 2 pm from Saturday to Wednesday, from 8 am to 12 noon on Thursday and closed on Friday.

Symposium on theatre movement

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THE stimulation of the theatre movement in the Gulf and Arab world was the main goal of the symposium "Audience and Theatre" held yesterday.

The symposium was opened by the head of the higher organising committee of the Gulf Theatre Festival, Hamad Al Roumi, at the Sheraton Hotel.

The debate was enriched by valuable suggestions from critics and writers.

One of the speakers, Dr Samir Sarhan, said that the theatre was the most influential art form.

Forms
He said that the Arab theatrical movement was initiated by Maroon Nakash.

Dr Sarhan said that the theatre heritage included satirical, farical and historical plays, and different forms such as puppetry, pantomime and the theatre of the absurd.

He said that efforts were being made to help scholars and researchers to compile all information on popular heritage and publish material on the subject.

Influence
He said that such publications would help acquaint youngsters with their artistic legacy, and this would influence their intellectual, psychological and mental development.

A paper on communications and their effect on theatre audiences was read by researcher Mousa Zienil.

He said that television has contributed greatly to the increase in the number of theatre-goers. He added they were showing more interest in farical than intellectual and serious plays.

The Minister of Information

Sheikh Jaber Muharak Al Hamad Al Sabah Saturday night hosted a dinner banquet at Kuwait Towers in honour of the delegations taking part in the first GCC theatrical festival.

The banquet was attended by board chairman and director general of the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah.

Undersecretary of Information Abdul Aziz Mohammed Jaafar, Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khudari and other officials and a number of Arab ambassadors also attended the banquet.

Board heads of Kuwaiti theatres and the secretary-general of the Arab Artists Union Saad Eddin Wahba and a number of Arab, Gulf and Kuwaiti artists and journalists were present at the banquet.



● The Greek Ambassador to Kuwait, Constantine Tsokos, hosted a reception at the Holiday Inn to mark his country's National Day. He is seen welcoming Kuwait's Minister of State for Service Affairs, Issa Al Mazidi (right) to the reception. The Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen also attended the reception.

King Hussein returns

AMMAN, March 27, (AP): King Hussein returned yesterday from a trip to Oman and Pakistan during which he discussed the Gulf war, Afghanistan and other regional issues.

Hussein, who arrived from Muscat with his wife Queen Noor, held talks with Sultan Qaboos, whose country straddles the southern coast of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

He had arrived in Muscat following a state visit to Pakistan, where he held talks with President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq on Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq war.

The Jordanian monarch attended a military parade celebrating Pakistan Day, the anniversary of the resolution by the Muslims of south Asia to carve out an independent homeland, the future Pakistan.



A group of Pakistani school girls singing a patriotic song during a programme of songs dedicated to Pakistan. The programme was organised by all the Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

Nuisance calls

SOURCES at the Ministry of Communications have advised telephone subscribers that in the event of their receiving obscene or otherwise annoying calls they should contact the Ministry.

Complainants should go to the Telecommunications Centre in Safat or the Telephone Control Office in Shuwaikh in person to apply for their phones to be monitored. In such cases the Ministry of Communications will get a letter from the Interior Ministry permitting the subscriber's phone to be tapped in order to trace the source of the nuisance.

The Ministry also said that faults should be reported on 117 which records complaints and refers them to specialised technicians who will repair the phone as soon as possible.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE heart is never neutral — Earl of Shaftesbury.
English statesman (1621-1683).

Ershad's hold on power seems firm

By Anis Ahmed

DHAKA, (Reuters): Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad completed six years of rule on Wednesday with his hold on power apparently undiminished by a campaign to oust him, diplomats and political analysts said.

Ershad seized power in a bloodless coup on March 24, 1982, and diplomats said the general-turned-politician looked set to remain in office for the rest of his current five-year term which ends in October 1991.

Bangladesh was established as an independent nation in 1971 and none of its previous presidents completed their terms.

Founding President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed in a military coup in August 1975 while his successor, General Ziaur Rahman, died in a 1981 military.

President Abdus Sattar held office for less than a year before Ershad ousted him.

"We have just ended an era of development. Bangladesh looks to an even brighter future," Shah Moazzem Hossain, secretary-general of Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party, told a news conference on Monday.

Income

Hossain said that under Ershad annual per capita income in Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest countries, had increased by 2.3 per cent.

Foreign exchange reserves had risen to \$850 million in 1987 from 122 million in 1982 while gross domestic product growth had reached four per cent from 0.1 per cent.

Officials have also described as spectacular an agricultural recovery following devastating floods last year.

Agriculture ministry officials said higher than average output had already produced two million tonnes of rice to help replace the 3.4 million tonnes lost in the floods.

Jatiya won a landslide victory in violent parliamentary elections on March 3 during which police said at least 15 people were killed and 200 injured in bombings and gunbattles.

A coalition of 21 opposition parties, led by Bangladesh Nationalist Party head Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, boycotted the polls as part of a campaign to topple Ershad.

Aquino goes ahead with land reform

By David W. Jones

MANILA, (UPI): A land reform-dominated congress has left little intact of an ambitious land reform programme — President Corason Aquino's 1986 election platform and her answer to endemic poverty.

The House of Representatives and Senate pushed through two dramatically different versions of the President's land reform bill Friday, five months after the deadline Aquino had set for her sweeping reform programme to become a law.

The house bill approved just before congress went into its Easter recess, was only a far cry from the ambitious programme formulated last August, watered down to the point where almost no land is left to be redistributed.

All 14 sponsors walked out of the house when it became clear the chambers landlord would succeed in gutting the bill's key provisions.

Their only hope now is that portions will be restored when a House-Senate Committee meets next month to reconcile the two bills.

"We are against this mutilated land reform bill," said Felisimo Patayan, an organiser of the peasant farmers group Kilusang Magbubukid sa Pilipinas.

The lawmakers claim to care for the peasants, but they are not for the peasants, they are for the landlords.

Representative Bonifacio Gillego, who led the house walk-out, added, "we cannot allow our names to be used by the pro-landlord solons in coming up with an emasculated agrarian reform bill. We will have no face to show our constituents."

The programme announced by Aquino last August would have broken up and redistributed virtually all agricultural

Khaleda told a rally in Dhaka this week: "The government is trying to fool the people by cheap slogans. Our movement will not stop until it is ousted and a flawless democracy established."

But an Asian diplomat told Reuters: "Ershad is a shrewd navigator in the turbulence of Bangladeshi politics. He has outwitted his opponents many times and taken the wind out of their sails."

Diplomats say they believe the opposition lost its chance to oust Ershad last November when the anti-government campaign, which included a series of general strikes, was at its height.

Ershad has also been helped by the dislike Hasina and Khaleda have for each other.

"This has helped Ershad to survive stormy protests almost unscathed," a Bangladeshi analyst said.

The only thing the two women can agree on is the need to oust Ershad, analysts say.

Mujibur Rahman was Hasina's father. Ziaur Rahman was Khaleda's husband. Both women therefore have plenty of reason to distrust a man who boasts of his close ties with the military.

Ershad, 58, has repeatedly proclaimed there will be no more military in Bangladesh.

"I have given the country political stability, that's why there was no military uprising in the past six years," he has told public rallies in recent days.

Ershad says he is planning to overhaul Bangladesh's electoral system to end charges of vote rigging.

"The changes would be worked out by a special commission headed by a supreme court judge," he said last week without giving details.

Ershad said the new parliament, expected to open in mid-April, would also discuss a law making Islam the state religion in Bangladesh, the world's third most populous Muslim country.

The opposition argues this is a diversionary tactic. "This is just an attempt to divert people's attention from the political and economic problems he is facing," Khaleda said.

Bangladesh is seeking more than \$2 billion in foreign aid for the financial year starting in July. "I think donors will at least maintain the previous year's aid level of \$1.85 billion. There may even be an increase," an Asian diplomat said.

Substantial movement toward resolving Lebanon's political crisis

Washington quietly encouraging dialogue

By E.A. Wayne

WASHINGTON: For the first time in over two years, there is substantial movement toward resolving Lebanon's political crisis, say Reagan administration and Middle Eastern officials.

Over the past month, the pace of discussion between opposing sides in Lebanon has intensified significantly with the US playing the role of "postman" between the Christian government of Lebanon and Syria, whose 25,000 troops dominate most of Lebanon.

A United States diplomat was recently shuttling between Lebanon and Syria with the most recent proposals for political reform.

Since last summer, Washington has been quietly encouraging dialogue between Syrian President Hafez Assad and Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. The goal is to end the chaos in Lebanon, which threatens regional peace and overflows the country's borders in the form of terrorism, religious fanaticism, and drug trafficking.

But only in recent weeks have all sides begun to make concessions and "move toward their bottom lines," say administration sources.

"The US is trying to bridge the gap between the Lebanese govern-

ment and Syria, so Syria can play a successful — constructive — mediator role" between the government and its opposition, explains a senior Middle Eastern diplomat. "Washington is not trying to take Syria's place."

Most encouraging, say informed officials, is that "very substantive exchanges" are now underway on key questions of power sharing between Lebanon's warring communities — Christian, Shiite Muslim, Sunni Muslim, and Druze. The parties are also exploring ways to begin to lessen the importance of "confessionalism" the system of distributing government posts on the basis of religion.

Exchange

The process is still fragile, specialists add, but the main actors seem interested in progress before this summer's presidential election in Lebanon.

"We are all exhausted and impoverished by this civil war," says a well-placed Lebanese. "No one community feels it can force hegemony over others and all want to get this sorted out before we try to choose someone to lead the country for the next six years."

A senior Middle Eastern diplomat says that President Gemayel and most other key actors are agreed they "need to play ball with the Syrians" to bring the parties together again.

However, he adds, the US role



Amin Gemayel

has been essential in getting Syria and the Lebanese Christians to break the stalemate. Saudi Arabia, France, and the Vatican are also helping, he says.

Racked by civil war for almost 13 years, Lebanon's government has been paralysed since January 1986. The feuding sides within the government have not talked directly during this period. Decisions are made through decrees and notes carried between ministers and the President by courier.

With substantial urging from the US, Gemayel prepared a "very serious" proposal for constitutional reform in December and January, say diplomatic sources. Richard Murphy, assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, carried it to Damascus during his early February tour of the region. Assad then asked for more

specific proposals on government power sharing and on eliminating "confessional" identity from Lebanon's political system.

The US sees Gemayel's ideas as "a real step forward" and urged Damascus to give it "serious study," administration sources say. The Syrians had earlier told the US that if Gemayel came up with a substantial offer they would work with him, Sunni, Shiite, and Druze opposition to respond constructively. The Syrians did call Lebanese opposition leaders to Damascus, and Assad gave Shultz the opposition's comments recently.

A US diplomat then carried these comments to Beirut, where within 24 hours Gemayel prepared another response for the Americans to carry back to Syria.

The US role, administration sources say, is not to mediate but to get the sides talking so they can work out their own problems.

Washington concluded last year that unless the paralysis was broken before this summer's presidential election, there would be even further instability that could easily spill out of Lebanon. In a series of soundings last summer and fall, the US found the main Lebanese groups — except the radical pro-Iranian Hizbullah — eager to resolve the stalemate and supporting re-

newed US interests.

The process still has far to go. Current discussions are focused on reform of Lebanon's government. Lebanese Muslims have long contended that the confessional system gives the Christians a disproportionate share of power dating from the 1930s, when the Christians made up the largest sector of the population. It is now widely believed that the Muslims outnumber Christians.

The issue of withdrawing foreign troops — Syrian, Israeli, and Iranian — which control up to 80 per cent of Lebanon will have to be addressed down the line. Mutual suspicions remain high. Even within the Christian camp, for example, Gemayel still faces opposition from the Lebanese forces who are very mistrustful of Syrian intentions.

Syrian officials say they want a strong central government in Lebanon based on a constitutional reform that gives just distribution of power to the warring Lebanese communities.

US officials still ask to what extent the Syrians really want to get out of Lebanon and eliminate their military presence, a move the US believes is essential for a final solution. Some suspect Assad increasingly realises Syria cannot control the situation and wants out. Assad also seeks dialogue with the US, says a Middle Eastern diplomat, as a check against an Israeli attack and as a

potential means of regaining the Golan Heights and getting Israel out of Lebanon.

On the other hand, US officials consider Assad an extremely astute leader who will seek an outcome that leaves Syria with as much influence as possible. Syria also has a very different view of the Middle East peace process than the US and retains close ties to Moscow, they say.

Nevertheless, US and Syria do share an interest in reducing tensions in southern Lebanon, in preventing entrenchment of the radical, pro-Iranian Hizbullah, and in avoiding a return to a situation where Palestinian commandos roam freely in the area, say officials from both countries. Washington is willing to help address the question of southern Lebanon down the road, administration sources say, but the first task has to be the creation of functioning Lebanese government.

The dialogue on Lebanese political reform is now focused on two areas. First, the cabinet: what powers will the Christian president have compared with other cabinet members and how much say the different communities will have in forming the cabinet. Second, what kind of timetable and process can be devised for moving away from the current system.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

Vice-presidential guessing game underway in US campaign

By Michael Gelb

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): George Bush's success in nailing down the Republican presidential nomination has started a guessing game over whom Ronald Reagan's loyal lieutenant will choose as his own running mate.

Bush campaign spokesman Peter Teelley insists "there is no long or short list" of vice-presidential contenders, but political strategists outside Bush's camp have begun considering prospective ticket-mates.

High on almost everybody's list are Illinois governor James Thompson, California governor George Deukmejian and former Pennsylvania governor Richard Thornburgh — on the theory that they could carry their home states, all major population centres that could help decide a close general election.

"There's lots of time. We have until the August convention," Teelley told Reuters in reference to the Republican presidential nominating convention in New Orleans which is expected to choose Bush as the party's nominee.

The Democrats were to pick their candidate at a summer convention in Atlanta for the November presidential election. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas and New York Congressman Jack Kemp, two of Bush's nomination rivals, are considered unlikely to be chosen by Bush. They are generally regarded as too independent to be suitable vice-presidents.

Dole is fighting on against Bush even though his cause looks hopeless. Kemp pulled out weeks ago, insisting that he, not Bush, was the legitimate heir to

Reagan's conservative movement.

"I don't see where Dole helps the ticket," says Republican strategist Haley Barbour, a former White House political aide.

One Bush staffer said the governors' knowledge of domestic policy issues would nicely balance Bush's foreign policy expertise as a former Central Intelligence Agency director, United Nations ambassador and envoy to China.

Deukmejian may have a special appeal because California has more of the electoral votes that decide the presidential election under the indirect US system than any other state.

New Jersey governor Thomas Kean is seen as a possibility but is rated a long shot because he is too similar to Bush. The moderate Kean would likely be unacceptable to the party's hard-right conservatives who only grudgingly accept Bush.

There is some talk that Bush might emulate former Vice-President Walter Mondale, who made history by selecting a woman — then-Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro of New York — as his running-mate on the 1984 Democratic ticket.

Polls showed that move actually cost Mondale support among conservative Democrats in an election he lost by a landslide anyway. But many analysts think the centre-right Republicans are in a better position to try the same thing without the backlash.

Former Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole, wife of Senator Dole, is on everybody's list of female contenders. She is seen as a superb campaigner — many rated her Dole's biggest

political asset — and has a long record of government service.

"She would bring public interest, show boldness, and directly attack Republican weakness with women voters," former White House political director Mitchell Daniels told Reuters.

Other women mentioned are former UN ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, darling of the party's right wing, and moderate Kansas Senator Nancy Kassebaum. Kirkpatrick has never run for office, however, and Kassebaum is relatively unknown.

But most political experts said the choice of a woman would be out of character for the cautious Bush.

"I think it's more likely he will make a cautious choice," Daniels said.

Teelley, a close adviser to Bush since the vice-presidential losing 1980 presidential nomination campaign, suggested Bush would like to pick someone in his own loyalist image.

"Loyalty has to be part of it," he said when asked what qualities would be important. "One thing you don't need is to have a vice-president monkeying around and disagreeing with the president in public."

Teelley said that would also preclude taking sides at cabinet meetings because word of any disagreements between the president and his top lieutenant would inevitably wind up in news reports.

Bush has offered opinions to Reagan in one-on-one meetings. That style has caused him embarrassment during investigations of the Iran Contra scandal because several official reports depict him as a bystander whose views nobody could recall.



Arab sentries on alert against Israeli soldiers

By Masha Hamilton

ARURA, Occupied West Bank, (AP): Two Palestinian men, kiffiyehs hiding their faces and clubs held at their sides, sprinted down the village's main road at night to pass the word: "Israeli soldiers are coming."

Behind them, about 20 Arabs moved in the dark with practised speed to block the road in half a dozen chosen places. They dragged stockpiled boulders and twisted metal onto the pavement to slow the 12-jeep Israeli patrol.

The Arabs whistled shrilly to each other across the rocky hills to indicate the Army's progress on the narrow road.

The overnight citizen's patrol was in action. It is one of dozens of such sentries set up in response to Israel's tactic of carrying out nighttime raids to arrest hundreds of suspected Arab

agitators in an effort to quell more than 15 weeks of violent anti-Israel protests.

The Arab patrols are clandestine and all those interviewed would agree only to the use of their first names. A journalist witnessed the patrols on two separate evenings.

"Because of these patrols, we are ready for an attack from anywhere," said 30-year-old Jamal as he stood atop a ridge on the outskirts of Arura, a sprawling village of about 2,200 Palestinians some 20 miles (30 kilometres) north of Jerusalem.

"But there is more than that," he said. "The guard duty makes us unified as a people. Everyone feels he has a part in the uprising."

Nightly patrols began in Arura about one month ago, after the Army carried out four raids during a six-week period,

arresting 21 men.

The birth of the locally-organised patrols is a sign of the increasingly sophisticated organisation and steady escalation of the "intifadeh," Arabic for uprising, that began spontaneously in December.

For that reason, they are a concern to Israeli officials.

"Illegal local organisation could lead to illegal regional organisation, all of it directed against us," said one military official on condition of not being identified.

On this night, the Israeli Army jeeps stopped short of Arura, parked for about half an hour and then turned around.

Retreat

Why the soldiers approached and why they left was not clear. The villagers viewed it as an Israeli retreat and a victory for the Palestinians.

Patrolling in Arura is methodical and sometimes tense. Every passing car is stopped by men brandishing clubs and rocks, their faces mostly hidden beneath traditional checkered Arab scarves.

Strangers are ordered out of their vehicles to determine if they are friends or Israelis, either plainclothes officers or settlers from the nearby Atteret settlement.

However, it's known that Israeli police and settlers carry guns in their vehicles and would probably fire if they felt threatened.

The sentries try to encourage cameraderie, urging one another to continue the fight against the Israelis and making optimistic predictions about the future of the intifadeh. They sometimes take a break to ward off the night cold with a shared glass of sweet herb tea.

Tahir, a 23-year-old Palestinian, said he would stand guard until 5 am and then leave for his job in an Israeli orange packing factory.

"I'm one person at night and another in the day," he said. "In Israel, they have no idea that I am taking my turn, once a week, on patrol."

The Israelis have detained more than 700 Palestinians in the last week in an effort to bring an end to anti-occupation protests.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1507 — Genna, Italy, capitulates to France's King Louis XII.
- 1791 — Britain increases naval strength, fearing war with Russia over Black Sea port of Ochakov which was captured from the Turks.
- 1800 — Act of Union with England passes Ireland's parliament.
- 1801 — Peace of Florence between France and Naples, whereby British vessels are to be excluded from Neapolitan ports.
- 1854 — Britain declares war upon Russia.
- 1898 — First German naval bill, introduced by Alfred von Tirpitz, begins Germany's naval expansion.
- 1938 — Japan installs puppet government of Chinese Republic in Nanjing.
- 1939 — Madrid's surrender to General Francisco Franco ends Spanish civil war.
- 1945 — Germany's V-rocket attacks on Britain end during World War II; United States invades Cebu in heart of Philippines.
- 1957 — Britain releases Archbishop Makarios who is free to travel except to Cyprus.
- 1962 — Syrian Army revolt fails; European secret army organisation in Algeria proclaims all-out guerrilla warfare against French forces.
- 1967 — UN Secretary-General U Thant proposes general truce in Vietnam, followed by peace talks, and the United States says it will go along.
- 1970 — Ansar sect supporters of Imam Al Mahdi rebel in Sudan.
- 1974 — Mounting civil unrest virtually paralyses founding government of Ethiopia's emperor Haile Selassie.
- 1986 — Nicaragua sends truckloads of troops to area of heavy fighting near border with Honduras.

Mitterrand wades into election campaign

By Brendan Murphy

PARIS, (UPI): A man of surprises, President Francois Mitterrand lived up to his reputation last week when he declared he would seek a second term and waded into the fray without further ado.

There was no doubt by then that the Socialist would run. But even his foes were surprised he took off the gloves so soon.

From the moment his Elysee Palace staff said he would give his decision in a live evening news interview — another surprise — it was clear Mitterrand had something up his sleeve. Not for nothing has the shrewd 71-year-old leader launched four presidential bids since 1965.

In 1981, on his third try, he achieved his lifetime goal and led the French left into the halls of power — only to see it swept out by a conservative wave in 1986 parliamentary elections.

Now Mitterrand is leading a lone charge against the conservatives with whom he has shared power in "cohabitation" ever since.

With a succinct "oui" to confirm his candidacy, Mitterrand delivered a scathing denunciation of "the intolerant minds... the parties who want everything... the clans... the gangs."

There was little doubt he was aiming at Prime Minister

Jacques Chirac, 55, the neo-Gaullist candidate whose well-oiled RPR (Rally for the Republic) Party has secured him a lead in the right-wing field.

Mitterrand warned that social divisions could result "if private interests... exert their domination over the country," clearly alluding to the Chirac government's drive to denationalise state industries.

"I want France to be united," Mitterrand said, letting it be understood he was the only man qualified to hold it together.

But it was Mitterrand's aggressive, hostile tone more than the substance of his remarks that struck observers.

"At the time I thought it was very tough," said analyst Colette Ysmal of the Centre for the Study of French Political Life, in an interview. "But in retrospect I'm not sure it was all that bad. It's hard to shift from being president to being a candidate."

For Mitterrand-watchers it was an extraordinary transformation from the calm, measured, aloof "ton-ton" (French slang for "uncle") to whom the French had grown accustomed since Chirac's arrival in power.

"For two years we governed together," Chirac himself said. "Then all of a sudden a new personality appeared."

Commentators said Chirac was thrown off balance by Mitterrand's attack, as Mitterrand

no doubt intended. Latest polls show Chirac edging out Conservative economist Raymond Barre in preliminary voting April 24, posing the major threat to Mitterrand in the May final round.

"I think Mitterrand really saw (Chirac) as his adversary," said Ysmal. "He has every interest in destabilising Chirac."

Mitterrand's opening broadside not only had that tactical effect, but laid the groundwork for longer-term strategic aims.

By attacking the denationalisations, the president consolidated his grip on the Socialist and moderate left-wing vote. But he wooed centrist voters by ruling out a round of re-nationalisations.

Fears

He appealed to voters uncomfortable with dominance by one party and who see the ascendancy of Chirac's RPR as reminiscent of the Gaullist government apparatus of the 1960s. Mitterrand offered his re-election as the ideal counterweight to this trend.

He sought to allay fears that his candidacy is a Trojan horse for a Socialist return to power. Mitterrand promised that if re-elected he would not automatically exercise his constitutional right to dissolve parliament and call new legislative elections.



NEWLY demobilised Sandinista soldiers shout pro-government slogans during a departure ceremony at the Tamatoya military school, north of Managua. About 1,800 soldiers were sent home from the war front after Contra rebels signed a peace accord recently. (Reuter wirephoto)



POPE John Paul II, holding olive branches, arrives in St Peter's Square on his way to an altar there for an outdoor Palm Sunday mass. (Reuter wirephoto)



BOB HOPE makes his first public appearance since his surgery, as he joins a host of Hollywood stars in a 'Hollywood Salute to Broadway' that honoured surgeon-general C. Everett Koop (right) and raised money for AIDS organisations and programmes. (Reuter wirephoto)



A TIBETAN protestor and 12 others in New Delhi receive a personal appeal from the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leader, to end their hunger strike to secure the release of Tibetans imprisoned by the Chinese authorities in Lhasa. (Reuter wirephoto)



YUSEF Abu Safya, 22, receives treatment in Nablus hospital after he was shot in the eye with a rubber bullet during a demonstration in Kufir Thilth, occupied West Bank. (Reuter wirephoto)



HUNDREDS of motorcyclists demonstrating against high insurance rates, pass near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. The protesters said France was the most expensive European country and demanded the government reduce the premiums. (Reuter wirephoto)



SWITZERLAND'S Michela Figini (right) and Italy's Alberto Tomba with their World Cup trophies after winning in the women's and men's overall ski events final race in Austria. Figini won the downhill and giant slalom standings and Tomba, men's slalom and giant slalom standings. (Reuter wirephoto)



HANGING her head in relief, No. 1 seed Steffi Graf shows emotion after winning the women's singles championship finals against opponent Chris Evert at the Lipton International Players Championship in Biscayne, Florida. (Reuter wirephoto)



JANET Evans of Fullerton, California, waves to the crowd after setting new world record in the women's 1,500 metre freestyle at the US Swimming Indoor Championships in Orlando. (Reuter wirephoto)



ONLY with boats or trucks can these inhabitants of Rhodenkirchen, a suburb of Cologne, West Germany, reach their homes, which are standing close to the Rhine River and now completely surrounded by water. Rains and melting snow have caused the river to rise above its normal level. (Reuter wirephoto)



SWEDISH police, armed with whips and mounted on horseback, push back a large crowd of demonstrators outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm. Thousands had gathered to protest against Iraq's use of chemical weapons. (Reuter wirephoto)

FASHION



Take your pick of embroidered kaftans in black or white.



Embroidered dress and dark waistcoat make a stylish contrast.



Lace trimmings add a dramatic touch to this evening dress.

Madame Z opts for simple and chic look

A blend of the Occident and Orient

By Fathima Ahmed

AS fashion trends go — every designer keeps up with the times. Turkish designer Madame Z follows the rules set by European designers but gently breaks away with a tantalising blend of the Occident and Orient.

Zuhair Yorgancioglu's — Madame Z — 1988 collection was shown on Saturday night at the Kuwait Sheraton. This is the fourth time she has displayed her creations here. Madame Z has mellowed with time — discarding her lavish, glitzy elegance for the "simple but chic look."

Eleven highly professional models swirled, twirled and danced to an entrancing mixture of Oriental and Western music, showing casuals and evening wear embellished with a touch of gold.

Ruffles are in. So is the little-girl look from the West. Puffs, raglan sleeves and above-knee skirts and cheerful bubble-skirts and balloons are all part of the Turkish collection, dominated by harem pants and saris. But, once again, she seduces today's woman with its variation — saris cut above the knee, showing a sexy thigh or ankle. Even when she dares to bare — like in the bare-backed black or white body-hugging kaftans — she does it tastefully. The woman has the choice to hide it beneath an exquisitely embroidered shirt jacket or dare and bare.

Madame Z has an eye for style. More than a fashion designer, she is an artist who sculpts clothes to flatter a woman's femininity. Her collection of kaftans is particularly

striking. Ankle-length gowns touched with embroidery on necklines or woven cross-over jacket designs are rather appealing. So are her casuals in black and gold or white and gold with contrasting wide belts. She surprises with bouncy ruffled-linen skirts with skin-tight bodices or her above-knee twirls in colours that stun the eye: fuscous pinks, mauves, purples, oranges and flame reds.

Then, come the soft colours — grays, whites, mustards and olive greens, colour coordinated to please the eye.

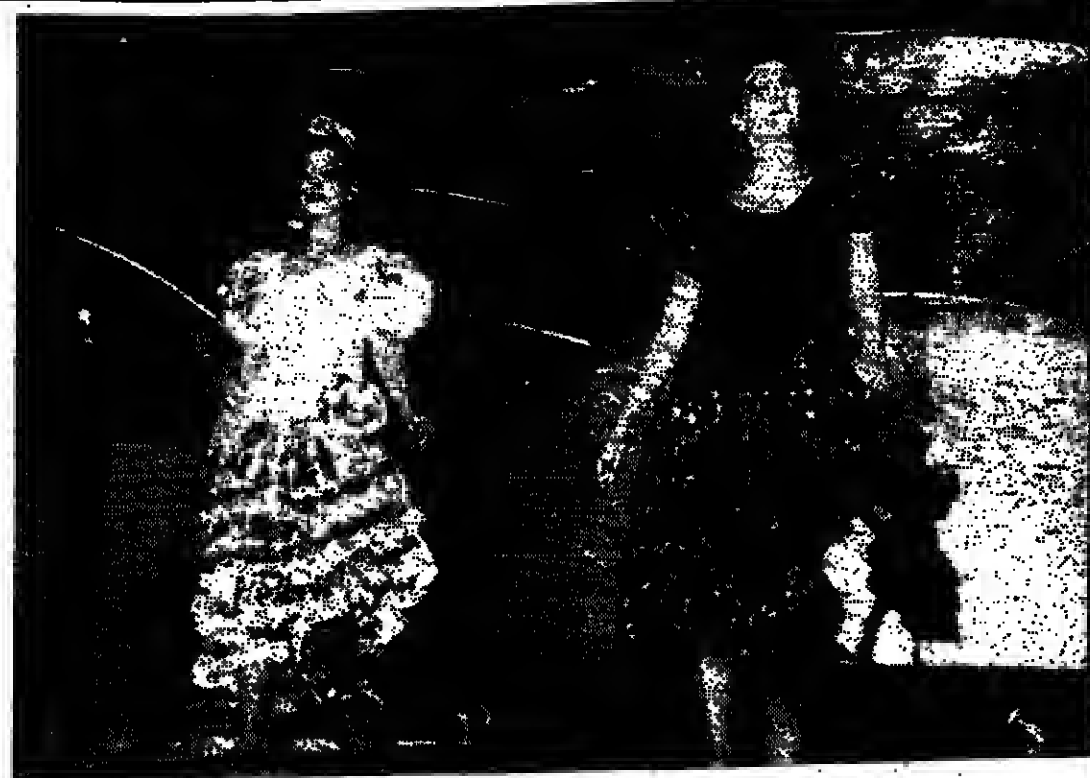
Yet, the shine and shimmer of gold and silver still attracts the designer. Lavishly embroidered capes flow tantalisingly over clinging bareh pants in bold purples, raven blacks and burgundy shades.

The best in her collection were the harem clothes in soft, crinkled chiffon — a fabric known as burumuk made in Turkey — flows gently blending happily with the design, touched with delicate embroidery on lace.

Madame Z has been in the fashion business for 30 years. Her task, she says, is to revive Oriental designs. She laments the loss of traditional fashion and the over-indulgence in European haute couture.

"My aim is to revive Oriental clothes," she says. That is just what she has been doing — blending Eastern and Western ideas to make highly original clothes, for a night out on the town or as museum pieces.

The Turkish fashion show continues nightly at 8.30 pm in the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel until March 29.



Ole! a bit of Spanish flavour.



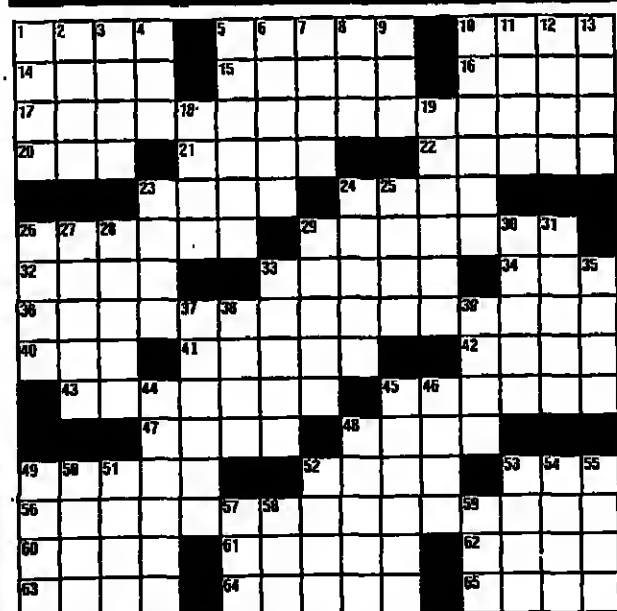
If you dare to bare, the waistcoat can be taken off.



Pure Turkish delight harem trousers for evening wear.

(Photos by Ahmed Bourini)

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Type of shark
 - After-dinner treat
 - Vessel
 - Words of understanding
 - Side by side, at sea
 - City in the Brazos
 - Dessert choice
 - Range of knowledge
 - Coup d'—
 - Turn away
 - Road shoulder
 - Wind indicator
 - Walk with long steps
 - TV's Rivera
 - Labour
 - Venom component
 - Under the weather
 - Dessert choice
 - Gnarl
 - Edible seaweed
 - Entertainer Adams
 - Name
 - Life's work
 - The Charles' part
 - Uncommon
 - Long-legged bird
 - Parched
 - Gratuity
 - Dessert choice
 - Japanese native
 - Obliterate
 - Spinaker, for one
 - Wander
 - Tamprress
 - Gaelic

- DOWN**
- Jaggar
 - Tennis great
 - Sharp
 - Over, to a
 - Down
 - d'hotel
 - Steel girder
 - Aerie
 - Mahal
 - Dallas campus: Abbr.
 - Type of chair
 - Revolutionary
 - War hero
 - Bakery employee
 - Dickinson in Whitman
 - Symbol of sinness
 - Kind of split
 - Cosby
 - Valms
 - Seed covering
 - Male animal
 - Pth helmet
 - Mature
 - Brants
 - Electron tube
 - Popular song in the past
 - Country estate
 - Sly look
 - South Carolina island or river
 - Golf stroke
 - Mars: Prefix
 - Singer Della
 - Cicatrix
 - Containing sulfur: Prefix
 - Island of the Inner Hebrides
 - Luminary
 - Autocrat
 - Egyptian goddess
 - Scottish name of fame
 - Miserables
 - Biblical lion
 - Employ

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SOBS HOLST PUCE
TOAT ARDAR ARAG
ONME MYSTIFYING
WABASH SYNOPSIS
OLLAS RASH
ETO UNITS SOPS
ROZ EDOU MANUTE
ALLA ESQUE EZRA
SEEPED USSR ZED
TROW MEESE LPS
CELA DENSE
SPOOLING NDRMAL
PERPLEXING TENA
ARNE GELEE ANTI
DUOS ESTER STER

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K963 KJ7 95 ♣ KJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 9632 KJ7 95 ♣ KJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ73 872 AJ103 ♣ 85
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ KQ73 872 AJ103 ♣ 85
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ73 872 AJ103 ♣ 85
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 2 NT Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ KQ1073 94 AKJ ♣ K73
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 Pass 2 Pass
? ?
What action do you take?



"I'm the dishwasher out back. Hide my tip in the gravy."



"The cat's been in all night — you put the tea cosy out!"



"The root cause of your trouble is, you married each other!"

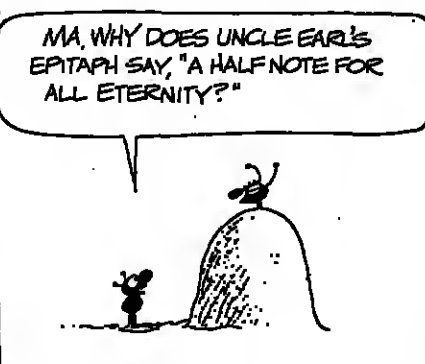
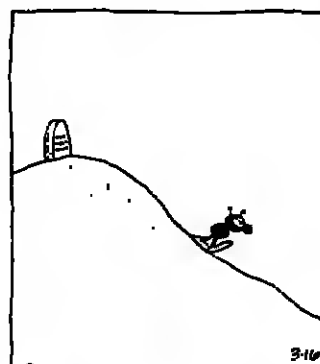
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should try to ensure that you have not forgotten anything. You will be able to make the right choice. Now is a good time to make a few changes for the better. Be a little more affectionate.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be a little disappointing with the way things are going. Avoid nibbling and keep a close check on your weight. A good talk will help you to resolve a problem. Be more reliable.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be able to take the right approach. Listen carefully to what others are saying and take their views fully into account. Try to avoid getting into bad habits. Be more precise.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to do something practical. You will be able to obtain reasonably good results. Do not neglect your personal life. Be resilient.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should try to make sure that you can meet your commitments. A promise you have made should not be broken. The Moon's influence will help you to do the right thing at the right time. Be less negligent.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should do all you can to avoid creating tension. Do something to rid yourself of some prejudices and preconceptions. Do not allow your attention to stray. Be moderate.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be able to do something a little more positive and constructive. Do not take everything quite so seriously but avoid being frivolous. Try to keep a proper balance between reason and emotion. Be sensible.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Do not be too selfish but do not neglect yourself either. You should not be too quick to say precisely what is on your mind. You will be able to do something more positive. Be reliable.



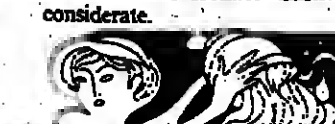
Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should not take something you have heard as gospel truth. It would be wrong for you to think that you are the only one whose opinion matters. You will be more persuasive. Be less pretentious.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should be more receptive to new ideas and more open to change. You will be able to make progress with a personal project. Make sure you do all you can to keep expenditure within reasonable limits. Be considerate.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should try to avoid creating complications. Make sure you do not take too much for granted. Say what you think but use a certain amount of discretion. Be less conspicuous.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You will be able to get a lot done today. You will be able to find the right answer to a difficult problem. A friend will need and appreciate your help and support. Be less haughty.



Whether it's quilts, whirrigs, weather-vanes or paintings, 19th century American folk art is soaring in popularity. This pair of paintings by Ammi Phillips, 'Dr Isaac Evert' (right) and 'Sarah Cornwall' (left) sold for \$88,000 at Christie's.

American folk art draws big spenders

By Caren Ross

NEW YORK, (Reuters): Quilts, whirrigs, weather-vanes and paintings, 19th-century American folk art is soaring in popularity.

Sotheby's auction house raised more than 1.5 million dollars at a recent sale of two masterly folk art paintings. And Christie's recently opened a division devoted exclusively to folk art because of what its director John Hays said is a "tremendous rise in interest in the last three years."

Simple "It has nothing to do with basket-weaving and making pots," said Nancy Druckman, head of Sotheby's folk art department, poking fun at folk art's association with rural craftsmen working away at looms and potters' wheels.

Nonetheless, few folk artists of the late 18th and early 19th century had academic training, and their creations look spontaneous, even naive.

Their figures tended to be simple, bold and somewhat distorted, giving portraits an expressive and abstract quality akin to some early 20th-century art.

Experts say this affinity - part accidental, part intentional between art styles of the two centuries has been recognised only recently.

The affinity is explored in an exhibition at the New York Hirsch and Adler Folk Gallery. Director Frank Miele noted that just as the influence of primitivism - tribal art - was evident in early 20th-century European artists such as Pablo Picasso and Max Ernst, folk art was evident in American art of the same period.

Miele says 20th-century American artists - Robert Rauschenberg, Charles Sheeler, Elie Nadelman, Marsden Hartley, Konrad Cramer, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Bernard Karloff and others - were influenced directly by folk art.

Many more 20th-century US



artists were unaware of folk artworks, but "ended up in the same place," Druckman said.

In addition to its aesthetic, modernistic appeal, folk art is valued for its historical and utilitarian qualities.

A wooden whirrig (a toy run by wind-powered propellers) shaped like a revolutionary war soldier, for example, sold at Christie's late January auction for 20,000 dollars. A cast iron rooster weathervane and diamond-patterned quilt brought in thousands more.

Unlike late 18th-century American painters like Benjamin West and John Copley, who travelled to Europe for inspiration, folk artists depicted "the kind of merchant class that was eventually going to be the backbone of America," Druckman said.

A freed slave, Joshua Johnson, painted one of the two most expensive paintings at the Sotheby's auction. It portrays a young girl in a frilly pink dress standing protectively beside an

oversized goblet of straw-berries.

The second work, by a deaf mute, John Brewster, depicts a man whose austere expression is offset by the tender extension of his hand to his five-year-old daughter. It sold for 850,000 dollars, a folk art record.

Unlike much folk art, both works are signed and dated, 1805 and 1799, respectively. Scholars are just beginning to attribute and date what had been a largely anonymous body of folk art, experts say, and this increases its value.

Even outside New York galleries, folk art sales are booming, according to Leslie Einsberg, who sells old blue-green copper weathervanes, wooden whirrigs, carved figures and other objects.

For 2,500 dollars she sells the amulet believed to have been worn by first US president George Washington's pall-bearers - a cloth effigy of a soldier wearing a velvet coat, satin waistcoat and lambs' wool wig.

Artist Schnabel rose from bistro kitchens to 'Wall Street'

Darling of the rich and status-conscious

By Aly Sujo

NEW YORK, (Reuters): As a struggling artist Julian Schnabel worked as a cook, taking his inspiration directly from his life in New York, its bars, its clubs, and even its pots and pans.

Now Schnabel's huge canvases of broken crockery can fetch as much as the old masters, and aspiring artists dream of emulating his rise to prominence from the kitchens of Manhattan's Soho to a Greenwich village studio.

With the young artist in mind, Schnabel has written a coffee-table manual of his journey to the top of the art world - "a sort of a how-to book," he says.

But the book, *CVJ: Nicknames of Maitre D's and Other Excerpts From Life* sets a fledgling artist back 75 dollars.

His bizarre paintings, using broken plates, velvet, religious imagery - even antlers - sell for over 150,000 dollars.

Darling At only 35, Schnabel, with the critics still divided over whether he is a consummate artist or, as the New Republic magazine put it, "a rip-off artist."

A New York Times review called him "the quintessential artist of the tumultuous early '80s."

Outside London's White-chapel gallery, young artists line up to hear him. His New York Whitney Museum show,



Julian Schnabel: the quintessential artist of the 80's, according to the New York Times.

a mid-career retrospective remarkable for a young painter, is the hit of the season, bound for Houston and San Francisco.

"Schnabel ushered in the '80s," says Lisa Phillips of the Whitney. "He has an emotional quality, a sincerity. We need that. We all do."

Schnabel's works, coveted by the rich and status-conscious, adorn the set of the film *Wall Street*, as symbols of wealth and taste.

Schnabel, the son of a Czech businessman, began his rise to fame in 1981 with an exhibition of "Plate paintings" and violent velvet canvases.

One critic said his "brutality" was "that of a pie thrower" while a reviewer said his paintings should be "chained in the basement like a pet gorilla."

But critical tide has turned. Schnabel's recent output includes both works of

religious inspiration and the savage paintings he is famous for.

His warehouse-size studio is hung with stark banners painted in black and white - "St Francis of Assisi" and "Saint Ignatius of Loyola" - and is filled with broken crockery.

Although his dealer denies it, Schnabel is reported to have received one million dollars to leave one gallery and join the prestigious Pace Gallery, which includes other famous artists such as Louise Nevelson, Alexander Calder and Jean Dubuffet.

"We don't buy artists," says an angry Arnold Glimcher, head of Pace. "And we never discuss prices."

This is a far cry from the days when Schnabel displayed his work on the walls of the arty New York bistros where he worked.

"When you're working as a cook or you're trying to get by every day, and maybe you didn't want to be a cook or a cabdriver," says Schnabel, "you like to believe that you have this thing that's a reprieve to take you out of it."

"I was the kind of kid who never did his homework," he said "so when this artist said my show was great, I thought, well, it'd better be."

Schnabel got his reprieve. One visitor to a restaurant where Schnabel worked turned out to be Nicholas Serota, who has been appointed director of London's Tate Gallery and is now a supporter of the painter.

Gone with the Wind museum

By Charles Laurence

THE Old South may have Gone with the Wind but the house where Margaret Mitchell wrote her best-seller is to be restored as a museum.

The city of Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara was destroyed by fire in the Civil War, a scene memorably described in the novel that has sold more than 25 million copies and formed the basis of Hollywood's unrivalled screen epic.

And the city of Margaret Mitchell, bohemian reporter on the Atlanta Journal Constitution in the 1920s, has been all but destroyed by bulldozers.

The three-storey house on Peachtree Avenue where she lived in a rented room for the six years it took to write *Gone with the Wind* now stands alone in red mud.

It is tumbledown, but Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, who has no time for sentimental views of the slavery era, has refused to sign an order permitting its demolition.

Both houses of the Georgia state government have passed preservation resolutions and the Atlanta Visitors and Convention Bureau, representing 1,400 local businessmen, voted unanimously for the museum.

Trammel Crow, the developers who own the house and the mud around it, have filed an appeal against the mayor's decision. They want to turn the site into a park as the centrepiece of a commercial project dominating "mid-town" Atlanta.

It is now thought, however, that they may drop the legal action in return for government compensation for the lost land, and incorporate the museum in their park.

The museum was proposed by Mitchell House Inc. which has raised \$2 million (£1.15 million) including a promise of a \$500,000 (£287,000) fabric restoration from the powerful National Association of Homebuilders.

Mitchell House architect Richard Rauh said: "As a reporter in Atlanta Mitchell caused scandals with her bohemian lifestyle. She was something of a rogue."

Mitchell lived in the house, built in 1914 in the Victorian style, between 1926 and 1932.

Time capsule of Parisian fashions discovered in little-known museum

Haute couture in a doll's house

By Jeans Senior

MARYHILL, Washington State, (Reuters): A collection of dolls dressed by top Paris fashion houses just after World War Two is coming home for a display at the Louvre.

The 30-inch (80-cm) tall wire mannequins, until recently thought by fashion historians to have been lost, have been on display at the little-known Maryhill Museum in sparsely populated Klickitat county of Washington state.

The dolls, complete with display sets, were paraded before the world in 1946 as proof that Nazi occupation had not crushed haute couture in Paris.

The Maryhill museum is shipping them back to Paris for restoration and temporary display at the Musee Des Arts de la Mode, the Louvre's fashion wing.

Museum director Linda Brady Mountain calls the collection a time capsule of Paris fashions in 1946, the year before Christian Dior's new look transformed the industry.

"They are truly unique," she said in a recent interview.

The mannequins wear miniature versions of clothes and accessories designed by 54 French fashion houses, including Lanvin, Nina Ricci, Balenciaga, Paquin, Molyneux, Pierre Balmain, Worth and Schiaparelli.

Christian Berard, a designer of theatre and ballet sets, conceived the idea of assembling a Paris haute couture collection, an achievement in a post-war Paris where food was scarce and electricity usage strictly curtailed.

Their makers dressed the dolls in costumes made from exquisite scraps of fabric that had accumulated in designers' sewing rooms.

Fourteen French artists, including Jean Cocteau, created sets ranging from a Paris street fair to the gardens of Versailles, to theatre and opera scenes, as backdrops for the tiny fashion models. Jewellery, accessory and shoe designers contributed miniatures of their products.

Dubbed "Theatre de la mode," the collection toured Paris, London, Glasgow, Bar-



A Maryhill Museum registrar arranges one of a number of 30-inch tall wire mannequins which historians thought had been destroyed. Shown are 1946 fashions by Balenciaga.

celona, Copenhagen, New York and San Francisco. Proceeds from the exhibitions went to war relief funds.

It is not known how the figures came to the museum.

Mountain said it was generally believed they arrived at Maryhill through Paul Verdier, owner of the city of Paris department store in San Francisco where the dolls were last displayed, and Maryhill benefactor Alma Spreckles, a wealthy San Francisco arts patron.

The three-storey Georgian-style Maryhill museum was built by Sam Hill, a millionaire road-builder, attorney and eccentric, to be his country residence.

He bought 7,000 acres (2800 hectares) overlooking the Columbia river, laid out a town and built the house that his wife - according to legend - took one look at and refused to live in.

One of Hill's friends, Queen Marie of Romania, dedicated Maryhill as a Fine Arts Museum in 1926 when it was still unfinished.

The museum, which finally opened in 1940, displays gowns, jewellery, furniture and memorabilia donated by Queen Marie Rodin sculpture and drawings Russian icons a first-class native American basket and artifacts display, and the mannequins.

The restored mannequins, with their stage sets, are to be exhibited at the Louvre in January 1990.

Mountain hopes they will be back at Maryhill by Christmas of that year, although she said they could be displayed elsewhere in Europe, possibly Milan or London.

The figures arrived at Maryhill with two scrapbooks documenting their travels. Many more records exist in Paris, where at least one of the designers, Madame Gres, still lives.

"There are still people in Paris who worked on the project in 1946," Mountain said, among them Henri Sautet, the composer who wrote incidental music for the exhibition, and Elaine Bonabel, one of the dolls' designers.

"It's entirely appropriate that they will be restored and documented in Paris," Mountain said.

She said that Susan Train, editor of American Vogue magazine in Paris, spent three years finding support for the mannequins' restoration and exhibition in Paris.

The mannequins are outfitted with the painstaking care that marks haute couture. Some wear gloves, many have hats. Their umbrellas open, and shoes and handbags were fashioned with tiny huckles and linings.

One of the tasks that will be undertaken in Paris will be matching the ensembles. They became "unfortunately jumbled," through the decades, said Mountain.

Artist who missed wealth by a whisker..

By James Paton

CATS have not always been household pets in Britain.

Until not much more than 100 years ago they were regarded merely as necessary to keep the mice down.

Louis Wain changed all that. Yet even he, a newly-married art teacher supplementing his income by drawing dogs, rabbits, fish and birds for the illustrated *Sporting And Dramatic News*, did not at first consider cats worthy of his art.

But when his wife became bedridden she found solace in the company of their black and white kitten, Peter. Louis would sit sketching Peter from every angle. Emily persuaded her husband to offer the drawings for publication and the illustrated *London News* published them in 1884. Nothing was ever the same again for Louis Wain. Emily died in 1887 and cats took over his life.

But the development which clinched his lasting fame came in 1890, when he put his cats into clothes and gave them human attributes. The Christmas issue of the *ILN* carried drawings of elegant cats in evening dress, sporting monocles, smoking cigars and dancing.



A typical example of the work of Victorian artist Louis Wain.

Wain's popularity was immense. He became president of the National Cat Club, produced *Louis Wain's Cat Annual*, drew a cartoon strip for Randolph Heart's *New York American* and created the first animated cartoon cat called *Pussyfoot*.

He should have been rich, but was forever facing debt. A shy man, he disliked bargaining and sold his work without arranging reproduction fees.

Always eccentric, his behaviour became more

strange, and in 1924 was admitted to the pauper's ward of Springfield Hospital, Tooting. But when his plight was discovered, a Louis Wain Fund was set up, for which H.G. Wells broadcast an appeal on the BBC.

Wain was transferred to the more upmarket Royal Bethlehem Hospital, Southwark and continued to draw and paint. His two sisters visited him to collect his work to sell, until a few years before he died in 1939.

Recently there has been a revival of interest in this talented man, and London art dealers Michael Parkin and Chris Beetles have done much to re-establish his reputation.

Because Wain's output was so prolific there is tremendous scope for collectors. Unframed prints can be bought for between £8 and £80.

For an original watercolour expect to pay upwards of £400, and an oil painting might cost £4,000 or £5,000.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

MOTHBALLS CAN BE TOXIC

QUESTION: Since our child was born, my husband and I have become far more careful with household items we used to take for granted. Now we're worrying about the mothballs we store with the winter clothes. How dangerous are they?

ANSWER: It depends on what type of mothballs you are using or considering using. Traditional naphthalene mothballs, while still widely available, are slowly being replaced by less toxic paradichlorobenzene mothballs. The older mothballs are definitely toxic and should be avoided in favour of the equally effective, newer ones.

In rare cases, exposure to the naphthalene mothballs can lead to an illness known as fulminating hemolytic anaemia, in which red blood cells are destroyed faster than they can be generated by the bone marrow. Fortunately, this condition is limited to patients low in a bodily enzyme known as "G-6-PD."

Any substance that can be mistaken by a child for candy should be used with extreme caution. By all means make sure you are using the safer paradichlorobenzene moth-

balls, and for extra precaution, place them in a well-sealed, ventilated can for use.

QUESTION: I'm tired of bearing all the dangers of tanning and sunbathing. Isn't all this hoopla just a slight bit exaggerated?

ANSWER: What has been exaggerated is the myth of a tan benefiting one's health and complexion. Sorry, but prolonged exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays has been conclusively proven to prematurely age the skin and lead to skin cancer. In fact, almost every case of skin cancer, including the one leading to President Reagan's recent surgery, can be traced to overexposure to the sun.

Attitudes like yours, combined with self-destructive attempts to cultivate a "healthy" tan, along with the loss in protection from UV rays as the ozone layer is depleted by pollution, have led to a soaring rate of skin cancer. Even if one avoids the malignant (melanoma) and less hazardous (basal and squamous-cell carcinoma) forms of skin cancer, age spots, thin, sagging and wrinkled skin are waiting down the road after a career of tanning. And that's the

truth (as we know it today)!

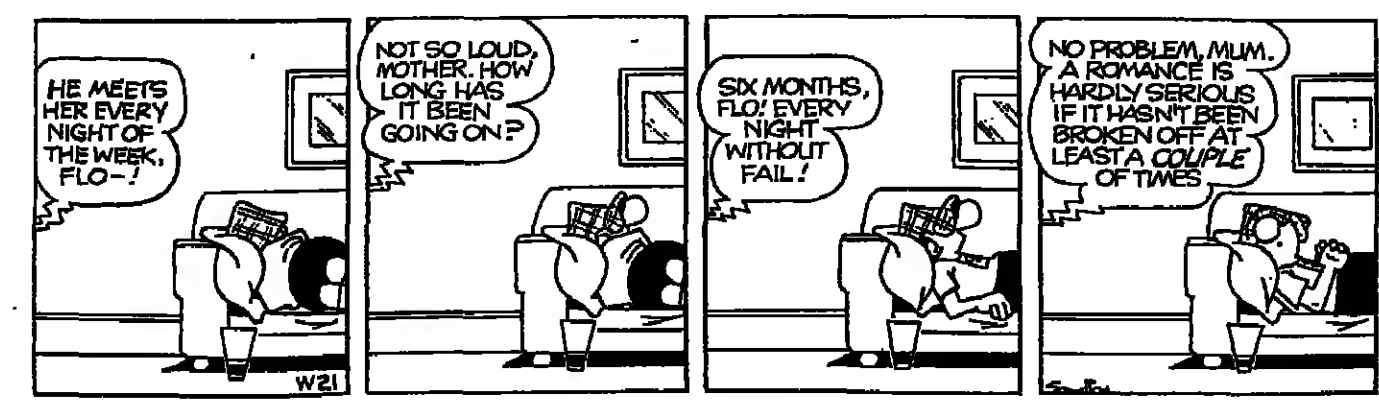
QUESTION: Please clear up some of my confusion about cataracts and their treatment.

ANSWER: A cataract is a clouding of the normally transparent lens of the eye, caused by physical and chemical changes in the lens. This occurs from natural aging or eye injuries, inflammation, or diseases, like diabetes. The lens gets thicker and yellower as it ages, until light cannot pass through and vision is obstructed. Surgery is the only method for cataract removal. The lens is taken out and usually is replaced with an intraocular plastic lens at the time of surgery. The procedure takes about 20 minutes and many patients go home the same day. More than 1 million cataract operations are performed each year and 95 per cent are successful. But there are risks, such as bleeding, infection, glaucoma, optic nerve damage, cloudy cornea, retinal detachment, lid droopiness and lens implant dislocation. Discuss this with your carefully chosen surgeon.

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ANDY CAPP

By Smith



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Group to announce steps to help boost prices

Non-Opec producers might respond to Opec cuts

NEW YORK, March 27. (Reuters): Non-Opec oil producers, which the organisation says are pumping more than 500,000 extra barrels a day into world markets, might be persuaded to reduce output by about five per cent if Opec did likewise, according to US analysts.

They said both the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the non-Opec producers must cut back production over a sustained period if world oil prices were to stabilise near Opec's \$18-a-barrel target price.

A group of seven non-Opec producers — Egypt, Oman, China, Mexico, Malaysia, Angola and Colombia — are expected to announce steps soon to help boost oil prices, an Arab oil industry official told Reuters last week.

Opec, meanwhile, has called a price committee meeting for the first week of April to examine weak world oil prices.

Crude prices saw-sawed by as much as a dollar a barrel last week, with West Texas Intermediate, the US benchmark grade, ending Friday at \$17.03 a barrel on Friday in anticipation of the Opec price committee meeting, traders and analysts said. They thought prices would probably remain volatile until the Opec panel met.

Production British Brent crude, another benchmark, ended almost unchanged on the week at \$15.40 for April delivery. That was \$1.45 up on the beginning of March.

Opec countries are now producing at or under their self-

imposed ceiling of 15.06 million barrels per day, excluding Iraq, according to Opec President Rikman Lukman of Nigeria.

Analysts say Opec has resisted calling an emergency meeting of oil ministers, fearing that any production cuts on the organisation's part would be quickly made up by non-Opec producers eager to increase sales.

Lukman, at a news conference in Lagos on Wednesday, blamed non-Opec producers for adding to the weakness of oil prices. He said non-Opec producers were pumping between 500,000 and one million extra barrels each day into a glutted world market.

William Hermann, chief economist of US-based Chevron Corp., estimated aggregate production for the group of seven non-Opec producers in

1988 will total about 7.65 million barrels per day.

He said one plan rumoured to be under consideration was a five per cent cut in output by the seven, which would remove about 382,500 barrels per day from the world oil market.

"Fundamentally, a five per cent decrease in output by these seven non-Opec nations is a step in the right direction," he said. "If the non-Opec production cutbacks hold over time, then Opec members might be more inclined to stick to their quotas."

Mehdi Varzi, an oil analyst with Kleiworth Grierson in London, said another possible plan to support prices would have both Opec and non-Opec producers trim production by about five per cent. Varzi estimated such a cutback would eliminate about 1.1 million

barrels per day from the world oil market.

But analysts say non-Opec producers are likely to resist requests for voluntary production cuts because oil is the primary source of revenue for many.

"At today's prices, I can't picture non-Opec producers wanting to lose market share," said Sarah Emerson, vice-president of US-based Energy Security Analysis Inc. "However, if the price of oil fell to \$12 or \$13, then they might cut back." She said non-Opec producers might simply announce a downward revision in future output growth.

Non-Opec production in the first quarter of 1988 will come to 25.51 million barrels per day, up 170,000 barrels per day from last year's levels, according to Data Resources Inc. Total world oil

production averaged about 55.34 million barrels per day in 1987, according to the US Department of Energy.

William Veno, an analyst with DRI, said production cutbacks by Opec and the seven non-Opec producers might be insufficient unless Norway, Britain and the Soviet Union participate. The three are not part of the seven-nation group that met earlier this month in London.

But Sanford Margoshes, an oil analyst with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc., said a cut by even a few non-Opec producers would be a significant step in balancing world supplies and demand.

"It would send Opec signals that greater support is being given to them. They would not have to fear that if they cut, the void would be filled by non-Opec production," he said.

Stock market falls smother Hong Kong interest rates rise

HONG KONG, March 27. (Reuters): A Wall Street-led decline in major stock markets stifled possible interest rate increases in Hong Kong today.

The association of banks announced that it would maintain the current system, with prime rate at six per cent, despite mounting speculation of a half to three-quarter point rise.

Stock brokers said bankers probably changed their minds because consecutive falls on Wall Street triggered a sell-off in Hong Kong, London and Tokyo.

"They sure don't want to rock the boat," said Laurence Amerine of DMT Securities.

Lower

The Hang Seng index, a widely-used Hong Kong stock barometer, finished 44.47 points lower at 2,501.93 on Friday. This coincided with falls in the Dow Jones industrial average, more than 40 points down in each of the past two sessions.

Many bankers, including Bank of East Asia general manager David Li and Standard Chartered Treasurer G.C. Goh, said earlier this week an interest rate increase was imminent.

Though their association decided on a standstill, some bankers expected this would be reconsidered after Easter. They said persistent low rates eroded their profit margins.

Hong Kong interest rates have lagged behind the US and other financial centres to fend off an inflow of foreign funds on speculation that the local dollar would be devalued.

Speculation eased when the association announced earlier this month that it was ready to introduce negative interest rates on savings and deposit accounts with balance of more than one million dollars (\$128,000).

UK trade deficit narrows

LONDON, March 27. (AP): Britain's merchandise trade deficit narrowed 8 per cent in February to £1.32 billion (\$2.43 billion) the government said yesterday.

The nation's annual inflation rate remained unchanged at 3.3 per cent in February, the government announced in a separate report.

The trade deficit greatly exceeded market expectations of an £875 million (\$1.6 billion) gap, but economists warned that new customs rules adopted at the beginning of the year continued to distort the figures.

The pound, British government bonds and British stocks nonetheless tumbled on the news. Even if the pound shows renewed strength to the near term, analysts said the trade report makes a further cut in interest rates remote.

Deficit

The merchandise trade deficit in January came to a revised £1.44 billion (\$2.65 billion), the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Britain had a current account deficit — which includes invisible trade such as financial services — of £720 million (\$1.32 billion) in February, narrower than a revised January deficit of £844 million (\$1.55 billion), but much wider than market expectations of a gap around £270 million (\$497 million).

Britain's retail price index rose 0.4 per cent in February from January and was up 3.3 per cent from February 1987, the Department of Employment said in its inflation report.

US economists see little threat to continued growth

WASHINGTON, March 27. (Reuters): To the delight of the White House in an election year, the US economy seems firmly set on a path of moderate growth and restrained inflation.

Concern about recession after the October stock market crash has faded and officials now forecast 2.4 per cent growth this year — a prediction that looks reasonable to most economists.

President Reagan told a business group last week: "One of the best kept secrets in economic circles these days is that the Reagan administration is going to end with a bang, not a whimper."

Expansion Wall Street economists are less optimistic and say last year's four per cent growth rate is unlikely to be matched. But there is broad agreement that the expansion, 64 months old and already the longest in US peacetime history, faces no grave threat in the immediate future.

Over 500,000 jobs were created in February, housing starts rose 8.9 per cent and consumer prices were up just 0.2 per

cent. Personal spending was the strongest in four months, yet the savings rate rose to 5.2 per cent, the highest since October.

Even the trade deficit, although still huge, was smaller than expected in January at \$12.44 billion.

Presidential aides, eager for a strong economy to enhance Republican chances of retaining the White House in the November elections, are ecstatic over the latest economic numbers.

Reagan's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said last week it was silly even to ask about the chances of a recession this year.

"If they had to write the script themselves, this is what they would have written," said Martin Barnes, who tracks the US economy for bank credit analyst in Montreal.

Dana Johnson, an economist with First Chicago Corp., added: "The economic fundamentals are truly encouraging. I really don't see in the near term anything particularly disturbing."

Indeed, the economy is doing so well that a meeting this week of

Federal Reserve policymakers is likely to be preoccupied with the risk of inflation, economists believe.

Although the US Central Bank's Open Market Committee, which meets on Tuesday, is likely to keep monetary policy unchanged for now, some Fed-watchers expect it to vote to raise interest rates a bit in the weeks ahead if the economy gets too strong and inflationary pressures intensify.

Worried

With unemployment at a 8-1/2-year low and factories operating at the highest rate this decade, economists and Fed officials are worried that US industry does not have enough capacity on hand to meet both domestic demand and the flood of orders from abroad.

Although businesses are spending more on new plant and equipment, prices of some manufactured goods, such as metals, paper and chemicals are already rising substantially.

Rising commodity prices, a renewed softening in the dollar

and a steeping of the yield curve — inflation barometers that the Fed says it is monitoring closely — are also starting to flash mild warning signals.

"The risk of inflation is rising all the time," said Jeffrey Leeds, chief economist at Chemical Bank in New York. He forecasts 2.5 per cent growth in the first half of the year and an acceleration to 3.5 per cent between July and December.

But one threat, he said, was a measure being debated in Congress that would require foreign investors in the United States to disclose their identity and holdings. "If that has a ghost of a chance of passing, it could be enormously serious."

Capital

Treasury Secretary James Baker has warned that, because the US depends on \$150 billion of foreign capital a year, any curbs on foreign investment could drive up interest rates.

Last spring, economists recalled, interest rates jumped and the dollar slumped after the

White House slapped \$300 million of trade sanctions on Japan for alleged violations of a semiconductor pact. The penalty raised fears that Japanese investors would retaliate by withholding their capital.

Many economists believe that depending on foreign capital, and the ever-closer links among the world's capital markets, in fact pose the gravest dangers to the US economy.

"If there's any problem in the US markets, it's because of political reasons or inflation, it will manifest itself in the dollar," said bank credit analyst Barnes. "The dollar is still the Achilles heel for the US economy."

A dollar under pressure could force Washington to raise US interest rates to defend the currency and keep it attractive to foreign investors. Indeed, the dollar's weakness, especially against the yen, sent shivers down Wall Street last week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 89 points on Thursday and Friday, closing below 2,000 for the first time in over a month.

Africa accelerates bid for radical debt solution

NAIROBI, March 27. (Reuters): African nations are stepping up efforts to get reluctant creditors to a round-table conference to consider radical action on a burden of \$200 billion worth of debt which is crippling their economies.

"Our economies are grinding to a halt and many of our countries are actually regressing," says the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) in a declaration setting out new ideas on the debt crisis.

A ministerial committee from 12 African states, which owe more than 70 per cent of Africa's debt, decided this week to press for such a conference in November or December.

But Western banks, aid agencies and governments have so far shown no serious interest in the idea.

Strategy The 12 ministers met in Lusaka this week to coordinate strategy after a special summit of the 49-member OAU last December endorsed the OAU blueprint for debt relief.

It contains dozens of far-reaching proposals, including a 10-year suspension on loan repayment, cancellation of

present official debt, 50-year repayment periods on new private and official loans and interest rate cuts on commercial loans.

Any rescheduling of debts should be done over 50 years with no interest charged.

It also urges industrialised nations to pursue policies that would ensure higher prices for Africa's commodity exports and to remove protectionist trade barriers.

Measures

"The measures are indeed the minimum that we feel are necessary to enable our countries to recover and resume normal growth," it declares.

The UN Economic Commission for Africa says the continent's economy, sapped by drought, rapid population growth, civil strife and a slump in world prices for most of its farm and mineral exports, grew only 1.5 per cent in 1987.

This was well below an original forecast of 2.0-4.0 per cent and only about half the rate of population growth.

Lenders have taken a softer line towards Africa in recent months, writing off certain official debt, stretching

repayment periods and mobilising funds to boost concessional loans.

But their action still falls short of what the OAU proposes.

Its debt paper points to constantly falling income per capita, mass unemployment and poverty which it says threatens the social and cultural fabric of African societies.

It also hints at near bankruptcy in many economies. "In the majority of our countries the question is not that of a liquidity crisis but of a solvency crisis."

Many countries already face debt repayment bills exceeding what they earn from exports.

Without a suitable remedy, it envisages Africa's foreign debt will jump more than 50 per cent by 1995 and triple to \$600 billion by the year 2000.

By then African countries, which now spend on average over 40 per cent of export income repaying their debt, will need to pour nearly three-quarters of such earnings into debt servicing.

"The exorbitant debt service burden is depriving our economies of resources needed not only for development but also in many countries for the survival of our peoples," it warns.

Efficiency could cut US fuel bill by billions

WASHINGTON, March 27. (Reuters): The United States could cut its annual fuel bill by \$300 billion if its industries, buildings and transportation were as energy-efficient as Japan's, a Worldwatch Institute study said yesterday.

Discussing building insulation, the research group said: "As much energy leaks through American windows every year as flows through the Alaskan pipeline."

Worldwatch also said: "Nations that want to compete effectively in international markets have no choice but to raise their energy efficiency to at least the Japanese level."

Christopher Flavin and Alan Durning, authors of the study, said that in 1986, the most recent years for which figures were available, "the United States used 10 per cent of its Gross National Product to pay the national fuel bill, but Japan used only four per cent."

They said energy efficiency could also reduce oil imports, limit air pollution, control "acid rain" and head off a global warming trend from the atmospheric build-up of carbon dioxide.

Flavin and Durning, World-

watch staff energy specialists, said energy efficiency had improved 15 to 20 per cent since the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

They said the 1973 embargo helped to spur car efficiency that has saved enough oil to help trigger today's oil glut, and prompted appliance efficiency that will save utilities from building 22 new power plants by the year 2000.

The authors said, however, the United States and some other countries were not capitalising on efficiency research and development.

Plants

Flavin and Durning said the world had entered an age of energy efficiency, "but societies still waste billions of dollars on power plants and oil wells when efficiency costs only a fraction as much."

They said: "Energy efficiency is an essential ingredient of economic and ecological progress."

"Its status should be charted as closely as productivity or inflation," they said. "Energy efficiency must be transformed from a watchword of specialists to a cornerstone of national and international economic philosophy."

World Business Summary

Moscow to apply for membership of ADB

MANILA, March 27. (Xinhua): Visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev declared here today that the Soviet Union will be glad to be a member of the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB). As a first step, he told a press conference, the Soviet Union will send an observer to the 21st annual meeting of the board of governors of the bank to be held on April 28-30, in Manila.

Rogachev said, "we are for broader participation of all countries in the Pacific region in economic and financial cooperation. And so we are glad to be members of all regional organisations, including the Asian Development Bank."

Soviet ambassador to the Philippines Oleg Sokolov, who was also present at the press conference, said that the Soviet Union has recently established the national commission for economic cooperation with the area of the Pacific. Its task is to look for ways to establish economic, trade and technological cooperation with countries in the Pacific. One of the steps the commission will take to that direction is to send a Soviet observer to the meeting of the ADB. "There will be other steps to be followed," he said.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister is now on a five-day visit to Manila. He met and discussed with President Corason Aquino and other ranking Philippine government officials the international and bilateral issues.

Manila signs debt rescheduling pacts with 3 European countries

MANILA, March 27. (Xinhua) The Philippines yesterday signed debt rescheduling agreements with Denmark, Finland and Switzerland involving some \$22.3 million in official debts owed to the three European countries. According to the Philippine News Agency, covered by the agreements are some \$8.6 million in official debts owed to Denmark, \$4 million to Finland and \$9.7 million to Switzerland. The signing of the three restructuring agreements brought to \$193.24 million the amount of debts restructured. \$1.05 billion owed to 14 creditor governments are subject to restructuring. The three agreements were signed by Philippine Finance Secretary Vicente and diplomatic envoys of the three countries.

The Philippine government yesterday signed an agreement with the United Kingdom which agreed to restructure some \$31.9 million. Those which had earlier signed similar agreements were Federal Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Canada and Belgium. Three countries, however, have yet to sign restructuring agreements with the Philippines — the Netherlands and two of the country's major creditors, the United States and Japan.

The Philippines owes the United States some \$229 million and Japan some \$515 million.

Nigerian minister extols Sap

LAGOS, March 27. (Opecna): The structural adjustment programme (Sap) in Nigeria had succeeded in bringing about a realistic adjustment of the exchange rate of the naira, the Minister of Finance and Economic Development, Dr. Chukwura Nnamani, said here last week. Delivering a lecture on "the challenges of the Nigerian economy in the immediate years after the structural adjustment programmes," at a monthly luncheon of the Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce, Nnamani said that Sap had brought about "a progressive dismantling of the complex set of discretionary controls which were a cog in the wheel of private investment and economic progress, as well as a strengthening of the role of market forces and signals in determining economic choices and achieving allocative efficiency."

The exchange rate adjustment and the removal of discretionary controls have engendered more rational economic and financial behaviour by the different tiers of government, business firms and households in the country, he added.

These measures, he said, had helped the nation accomplish the objective of attaining a better alignment between its patterns of domestic production and consumption and the internal resource base.

"It is imperative that the alignment should continue in the future as the resource base changes," he added.

The minister said that the challenges of the Nigerian economy in the years ahead would continue to centre on the need for diversification of productive base.

International oil market weak

A PROMINENT Arab oil official yesterday said the status of the international market was "extremely weak" because of the slump in demand. Abdel Aziz Al Wattari, acting secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), said that Opec members must back the \$18 per barrel price in order to have the final say on the benchmark price.

In an interview with Kuna yesterday, Al Wattari said that if Opec states do not stick to the production ceiling, prices will be liable to take a dive. Any irregular hike in production will lead to a near collapse of prices, he added. He said that demand for oil by developed countries is a significant element in boosting the market in the long run, but it is not likely to shoot up nor will it absorb the current over supply on the market. On squeezing Opec's budget this year to a mere \$D1.3 million, Al Wattari said that the organisation did not have an alternative, but to reduce spending.

He added that although Opec's staff was cut by more than 50 per cent from the original 150 employees, "I have proven at the fourth Arab energy conference, held recently in Baghdad, that we can give more and do what we have to and maybe more."

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Capital exports in the form of public bond issues decline

Swiss banks see tougher times ahead

THE abrupt end of the five-year bull run in equity markets throughout the world confronts the financial markets with a major test of their resilience.

As a result of the collapse in share prices, the financial institutions themselves and not just their clients have suffered a reduction in asset values. Consequently, their undisclosed reserves on securities and long-term holdings have declined again somewhat after increasing strongly during the period of buoyant stock markets.

The effects on the banks' earnings statements as of end-1987 are, however, likely to remain limited. Clearly, though, the banking industry will be facing tougher times in 1988, according to Credit Suisse.

Results The brilliant results achieved in recent years were very strongly influenced by trends such as securitisation, globalisation of financial markets, deregulation, the boom in company flotations, new financial products, etc.

The banks' sources of income

In the first nine months of 1987 the Swiss banks reported a good level of activity and a favourable earnings trend. Subsequently, banking operations were very much caught up in the turbulent train of events on the world's stock exchanges and in the foreign exchange markets. This change of scenario poses a major challenge for bank managements.

Thus shifted increasingly from traditional commercial banking business to off-balance-sheet areas of operation, i.e. to commission income.

Earnings have become more vulnerable as a result. The banks drew attention to this fact when submitting their proposals on dividends last year, which in some cases were received with disappointment by their shareholders.

Following the latest developments on the

international equity markets, the trend towards securitisation has been broken; change is thus inevitable, new issues activity and stock exchange turnover will probably reflect this most clearly. Lending business will increasingly come to occupy centres stage again as the raising of equity capital via the stock market has become less attractive and more difficult; in addition, investors will tend to opt more for fixed-interest securities.

At the same time, the rate of turnover in clients' securities portfolios will decline, which will mean lower income from commissions earned on stock exchange business. Furthermore, it can be assumed that some internationally orientated investors will switch back into their domestic markets, which are easier for them to monitor.

Together with the fact that it will take longer for new financial instruments to spread to different markets, these developments will put a brake on the globalisation process.

By contrast, the advance of information technology and telecommunications is likely to continue. Competition, too, will remain fierce. Overdimensioned structures that were created under the protective umbrella of the five-year bull market will have to be rapidly cut down to size.

Those institutions which have concentrated predominantly on securities business will feel the effects of this more sharply than

banks that engage in a comprehensive range of activities.

The Swiss banks' operating environment last year continued to be characterised by generally favourable real economic growth and undesirably high unemployment in most countries, accompanied by a slight acceleration of inflation rates.

At the same time, interest rates bottomed out in summer and the foreign exchange markets were somewhat calmer for a while.

In addition, international debt problems again attracted increasing attention.

In the United States, a one-year moratorium on the removal of restrictions on certain financial transactions caused further measures in this field to be postponed until March 1988.

By contrast, West Germany gave the go-ahead for private use of the Ecu, and Japanese underwriting syndicates were opened up to foreign banks to a limited extent.

(To be continued)

US stocks hit bad patch

Experts see steady recovery for market

NEW YORK, March 27. (Reuters) Wall Street's mood has shifted back to gloom after a post-crash bout of euphoria earlier this year in which many secondary stocks chalked up stunning gains and some selected blue-chip issues recovered as well.

Despite the atmosphere, some US analysts still predict a steady recovery for the market after a short period of weakness.

"It's really a very nervous market," said Michael Metz, strategist at stock brokers Oppenheimer and Co., but he added: "I think we're in a nervous market that will shortly give way to renewed strength."

Weakness

In the first close below 2,000 since February 18, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 44.92 points on Friday to 1,978.95, after a 43.77-point slide on Thursday. On the week, the Dow was off 108.42 points or 5.2 per cent.

Its weakness added to domestic

factors in other world markets and helped send London's 100-share FTSE index down 4.7 per cent on the week and Tokyo's Nikkei Average down 2.5 per cent for the week after a half-day trading session on Saturday.

Pattern

The Dow's fall last week was its biggest so far this year and the worst since a 143.74-point five-day drop in early December. It erased half of a 200-point six-week rally that lifted it to a post-crash high of 2,087.37 on March 18.

"The potential for the market to rally is pretty good," said Thom Brown of Boucher and Singer in Philadelphia. But he warned that the recent advance and any new advance must be classified as "bear (sellers) market rallies."

He added that "the pattern leading up to the October crash was similar to the pattern prior to the 1929 crash" and so far the post-crash movements have been similar.

Worrying those with a sense of history was the knowledge that, on the 158th day after the 1929 Wall Street crash, the market began a more serious slide that lasted years. Friday was the 158th day since "Black Monday" on October 19, 1987.

Though Brown did not predict a new crash — "we've already had the biggest crash in history in October" — he still worried about protectionist legislation pending in the US Congress.

Lows

Harry Laubscher of brokers Tucker Anthony, R.L. Day felt the market's decline is due mostly to concern about the weak dollar and the weak bond market.

Oppenheimer's Metz said that if a consensus builds that the dollar — now around 1.6750 West German marks and just over 125 Japanese yen — has successfully tested its lows, shares could resume an upward course. He said many big investors

had cash piled on the sidelines and were unlikely to sell heavily should the uncertainty linger.

Most analysts saw blue-chip stocks remaining under pressure but continued gains in neglected secondary issues. Jack Sullivan of Van Kasper and Co said the move upward in that tier of the market could last anywhere from 18 months to three years.

In Tokyo on Saturday, brokers said profit-taking, Wall Street's end-week decline and a depreciation of the dollar against the yen pushed prices to their third consecutive daily fall. The Nikkei Average ended the half-day session down 305.99 points at 25,320.72 — a drop of 645.89 on the 5-1/2-day week.

In London, Britain on Friday reported a balance of payments deficit for February of £720 million and the figure sent sterling and stocks down sharply. The treasury said changes in customs documentation may have affected the data, but the deficit

was nearly twice as big as forecast and much higher than market expectations.

In Frankfurt, the Faz index ended 23.5 points or 4.9 per cent down on the week at 452.87. Among blue chips, Daimler-Benz AG fell eight marks (\$4.77) to 550.5 marks (\$388) a share on Friday, and Deutsche Bank AG was down 16.5 marks (\$9.85) to 401 marks (\$239.25).

Results

Deutsche Bank is due to lead off the annual results of the big three German banks this week and dealers were divided over what impact the news would have on the market.

In Paris, dealers said the market's trend remained bearish and hesitant despite positive corporate news. Economic worries, particularly concerning the US and political uncertainty ahead of the French presidential election were keeping investors at bay. The CAC index ended on Friday down 7.2 points, or 2.4 per cent, on the week at 292.0.

Grisanti to visit Egypt

CAIRO, March 27. (Reuters) Venezuelan Oil Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti will visit Egypt next month for talks on stabilising the world oil market, oil ministry officials said today.

During the three-day visit, Hernandez Grisanti will have talks with Egyptian Oil Minister Abdel-Hadi Kandeel on how best to boost prices, the officials said. Venezuela is a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) but Egypt is not.

The visit, in the second half of April, is part of tour including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Saudi Arabia, they said.

Meeting

Kandeel said last week Egypt may call for a meeting of all oil producing countries to stop the slide in world prices, urging a unified strategy for all producers.

He said Egypt wanted to push the market back to the 18-dollar-a-barrel level — the Opec benchmark price.

Egypt, which sets oil prices twice monthly according to market forces, now sells its top grades at \$13.25 a barrel. Prices are due to be reviewed by the end of the month.

The government says production now stands at 870,000 barrels a day, about a third of which is exported.

Standard Oil to change name

HOUSTON, March 27. (Reuters) Standard Oil Production Co., a subsidiary of BP America Inc., will change its name by mid-year, according to BP America executive vice president E. John P. Browne.

(Reuters incorrectly reported on March 25 that parent company British Petroleum Co Plc would change its name.)

Standard Oil, which has gone through a variety of name changes during its long history, has an identity crisis, Browne said.

Problem

He said the company will try to solve the problem with a new name, which he would not disclose.

Parent company British Petroleum Plc and BP America will retain their names, according to company spokesman Chuck Webster.

BP took over Standard in June 1987 when it purchased the 45 per cent of the stock it did not already own. Cost of the transaction was over \$7 billion.

BP currently ranks as the world's third-largest publicly traded oil company with 5.05 billion barrels of oil and 8.5 trillion cubic feet (240 billion cubic metres) of natural gas reserves.

Diploma in banking studies

DR Abdullah Muhanna Salem, director general of the Institute of Banking Studies has said that he is seriously considering the introduction of a course leading to a degree or diploma in banking studies for all university graduates working in the banking sector.

In an interview with a local daily Dr Salem said that the Institute had run more than 200 training courses in the past five years and that Kuwaitis made up fifty per cent of the 3,800 students involved.

He pointed out that the courses covered language skills as well as various banking functions.

In the sixteen years since the Institute opened it had aimed to develop, upgrade and improve the abilities and skills of Kuwaitis throughout the banking industry.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rates slightly firmer

Kuwaiti dinar

Based on opening middle market FX rates, the KD exchange rate was slightly firmer against the US dollar ending the week at 274.64 fils compared with its week before last closing of 274.64 fils.

Against the pound sterling the KD was firmer ending at 506.25 fils compared with its week before last closing of 508.24 fils. The KD was also firmer against the DM ending the week at 162.85 fils compared with its week before last closing of 164.36 fils.

The KD ended the week slightly firmer against the SFR at 196.91 fils compared with its previous closing at 197.82 fils. As against the Jordanian dinar, the KD ended the week slightly firmer at 800.85 fils compared with its week before last closing of 801.16 fils. The KD was unchanged against the GCC currencies.

The CBK has announced that subscription in issue No. 8 for T-Bills was 166 per cent or KD 100 million and 159 per cent for T-Bonds of KD 50 million. The CBK has decided to increase the T-bonds to KD 79.50 to cover all subscriptions to this issue. Thus, the total amount of all issues has become KD 574.50 million and the total outstanding for the T-Bills has become KD 510 million.

World stock markets

Wall Street stock prices weakened over the week underpinned by declining the dollar and rising concern over an upward trend in interest rates, and fear that higher interest rates might choke off economic activity.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2067 and closed lower at 1979, below the Dow 2000 level which is regarded as a critical psychological support level, for the first time in more than a month, showing a loss of 108 points over the week before last closing at 2087. Shares prices on the London Stock Exchange also weakened over the week, shadowing the movement on Wall Street.

US dollar

The US dollar finished the week sharply lower against major currencies leaving the cross rates, and the high-yield currencies to graze the spotlights, namely the Aust. dollar which surged to its 2-year high against US dollar reaching 74.00 cents level, the Canadian dollar which climbed to its 4-1/2 year high against the US dollar at 80.4 cents, and the Sfr.

The Fed stepped in to stop the fall below 125 yen. The dollar staged a moderate advance on slightly weaker sterling following worse-than-expected UK current account data for Feb, which came late in the week.

US Feb budget deficit dropped to \$23.90 billion after a deficit of \$28.07 billion in Jan. making the cumulative deficit for the 5th month of FY 1988 amount to \$89.71 billion compared with \$94.36 billion in the same period in FY 1987.

Japanese yen

The yen captured the spotlight last week as it rose to its highest level against the US dollar since Jan 4 1988 and moved out of its recent tight range to 125.00/10 at the end of the week after opening at 126.95/05 and compared to its week before last closing of 127.93/03.

The yen's fundamental strength benefited from Japan's robust economic growth as well as expectations of the US dollar sell-off after the Japanese fiscal year closes on March 31. Speculating that Japanese life insurers are likely to buy dollars ahead of book closure for the fiscal year and sell later, with their special worry on sharp yen rises to avoid heavy losses in their dollar-valued investments.

The Bank of Japan intervened recurrently to support the dollar around the key support level of 125.50 yen.

Speculation increased over a rise in Japanese interest rates as money supply continued to show an expanding growth (12.4 per cent in Feb). Despite fast growth in monetary aggregate and yen rise inflationary fears are still mitigated by lower import prices.

Deutsche mark

The DM opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6888/98 and ended the week higher at 1.6715/25 marks compared to its week before last closing of 1.6930/40.

The mark ended the week hitting its lowest level against the yen in over 1-1/2 years at 1.3334/60 marks per 100 with 1.35 level looks near to breach, seen more of a yen strength rather than mark weakness.

However the mark gained some grounds against the stg after reaching the lows of 3.107/11 marks.

The W. German M3 money supply continued to accelerate as it grew by an annual 8.3 per cent in Jan and Feb well above 3-6 per cent target for the year as a whole, compared with 7.3 per cent in Dec & Jan. W. German import prices rose 0.3 per cent in Feb from Jan when

they rose by 0.2 per cent and stood 0.1 per cent above their levels a year ago.

Export prices were unchanged and stood 1.2 per cent higher from Feb/87.

The W. German government still sees a growth of 1-1/2-2 per cent in 1988, as the range of its forecast. The W. German Cabinet approved a major fiscal reform to cut taxes by 40 billion marks over 3 years from Jan 1990.

Pound sterling

The pound traded in a tight range against the US dollar. It opened the week at \$1.8363/13 and ended slightly higher at \$1.8435/45, above its previous week's closing of \$1.8245/55.

News that the UK current account deficit was £720 million in Feb undermined the pound late in the week.

Although the deficit was narrower than a downwards revised \$844 million shortfall in Jan, UK financial markets were disappointed as they had expected a significant recovery in the Feb data in the belief that the Jan numbers had been distorted by changes in documentation.

However, despite the previous week's 0.5 per cent rise in UK base rates, the pound still carries a favourable interest rate differential which draws in funds.

The retail price index (RPI), the UK's inflation measure, rose 0.4 per cent in Feb, to give an annual pace of increase of 3.3 per cent after being unchanged in Jan. A survey of monthly industrial trends prepared by the Confederation of British Industry showed British industry struggling off the effects of the October Stock Market crash and the UK economy still growing.

French franc

The French franc strengthened against the US dollar over the week, opening at 5.7395/25 FFR and closing at 5.6735/65 FFR compared to its week before last closing of 5.7505/35 FFR.

Socialist President Francois Mitterrand has announced that he would seek a second term, ending weeks of speculation.

He also said that he would reinstate a wealth tax in France and review hard core shareholdings in privatised firms if he wins the two-round election on April 24 and May 8.

Swiss franc

The Swiss franc improved against the US dollar to end the week higher at SFR 1.3830/40 compared to its week before last closing of SFR 1.4030/40 and its opening level of SFR 1.3975/85. Swiss industrial production rose 18 per cent in Q4/87 compared with the 3Q and was 5 per cent higher than in the final 1986 quarter. Swiss National Bank Director Hans Meyer said that Swiss exporters have to share the burden of reducing the large US trade deficit.

Higher domestic demand would help take up the slack, keeping Switzerland's economic growth steady.

Gold

Gold bullion prices opened the week at 450/450.50 \$/oz and ended higher at 451.80/452.30 \$/oz, showing a gain of \$8.50 over the previous week's closing of 443.25/75 \$/oz.

Gold broke through the psychologically important \$450 level early in the week on a weaker dollar, continuing political tension in Central America, lower bond prices, a fall in Stock prices in "Wall Street," and firming oil prices. On Thursday, prices reached a high of 456.50/457 \$/oz, its highest level since Feb 2, on the back of higher prices before ending the week at a lower level.

The gold market is seen locked into a range of between \$445 and 455 in the short term, but if it could break out, then prices could head up towards \$470.

Silver

Similar factors affected silver bullion prices which opened the week at 6.44/6.46 \$/oz and closed higher at 6.64/6.66 \$/oz, showing a gain of 35 cents over the previous week's closing of 6.29/6.31 \$/oz.

Shortcovering and a partial recovery in US silver futures helped to underpin levels by the close of the week.

Platinum

Platinum prices opened the week at 500/501.50 \$/oz and closed higher at 506.50/508.00 \$/oz, showing a gain of \$19 over the previous week's closing of 487.50/489 \$/oz.

Platinum advanced early in the week, breaking through \$500 and reflecting the firmer precious metals and on concern over continued civil unrest in South Africa.

Brian Nathan, managing director of Ayrton Metals, sees Platinum now well-established over the \$500 level and expects it to trade between \$500 and \$525 over the next few weeks in the absence of further developments.

Kuwaiti dinar deposits continue to firm

KUWAITI dinar interbank deposits continued to firm in a dull market yesterday, with many traders content to sit on the sidelines ahead of Wednesday's settlement day for a 79.5-million dinar issue.

Dealers said short-term funds were well-offered but fixed periods rose 1/4 points following a similar rise on Saturday.

Trade is normally thin during the European weekend and banks were keen to hold onto funds ahead of settlement day. The bonds were issued by tender last week, with the amount being increased from 50 million initially on offer to meet demand.

Overnight and tomorrow-next funds were offered at two per cent. Spot-next was quoted at three, two per cent while one-week climbed 3/4 point to 5-1/4, 4-3/4 per cent and dealt at 5-1/4, 4-3/4 per cent.

One-month firmed to 5-1/4, 4-5/8 per cent from 5-1/8, 4-5/8 on Saturday. Two and three-months were both indicated 1/4 point higher at 5-3/8, 4-7/8 per cent. One-year was steady at that level.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged at 0.27399/409 to the dollar. Commercial banks quoted rates of 0.27395/400.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposits were unchanged in lacklustre trade yesterday, with some activity reported at the short end of the market as banks covered day-to-day positions.

Dealers said volume was minimal in a normal trend for the European weekend when many major banks are absent.

Funds

They added that disappointment over the lack of further news on a possible Saudi bond issue further dampened sentiment.

The issue of up to 30 million riyals worth of government bonds during the year has been in the offing since the 1988 budget was unveiled last December.

One-week funds eased 1/8 point from Saturday's levels, with minimal trade reported at 6-1/8 per cent. Spot-next was steady at 6-1/2, six per cent.

KUWAIT

BANK SECTOR P.CLS LT HIGH LOW VOL TRADE

NATIONAL BANK 0.870 0.880 0.880 0.880 345000 12

GULF BANK 0.350 0.350 0.350 0.350 240000 12

COMMERCIAL BK 0.250 0.248 0.248 0.248 180000 6

AHLI BANK 0.305 0.300 0.300 0.300 100000 3

S.K.H.E. 0.315 0.315 0.315 0.315 0.315 0.315

K.R.E.E. 0.390 0.390 0.390 0.390 0.390 0.390

BURJAN BANK 0.250 0.250 0.250 0.250 80000 4

K.F.HOUSE 0.480 0.480 0.480 0.480 20000 2

INVESTMENT SECTOR

KMT INV. CO. 0.184 0.184 0.184 0.184 0.184 0.184

K.F.T.C.F.C. 0.210 0.210 0.210 0.210 0.210 0.210

K.I.I.C. 0.162 0.162 0.162 0.162 0.162 0.162

COM.FACILITIES 0.430 0.430 0.430 0.430 0.430 0.430

AHLIAN INV. 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000

I.F.A. 0.102 0.102 0.102 0.102 20000 1

INV. PEARL KMT 0.106 0.106 0.106 0.106 40000 2

INSURANCE SECTOR

KMT INSURANCE 0.690 0.690 0.690 0.690 0.690 0.690

K.I. INSURANCE 0.370 0.370 0.370 0.370 0.370 0.370

AHLIA INS. CO. 0.610 0.610 0.610 0.610 0.610 0.610

KARBA INS. CO. 0.430 0.430 0.430 0.430 0.430 0.430

REAL ESTATE SECTOR

KMT R.E. CO. 0.240 0.240 0.240 0.240 0.240 0.240

UNI R.E. CO. 0.120 0.122 0.122 0.120 1740000 38

NAT R.E. CO. 0.228 0.228 0.228 0.228 0.228 0.228

SALAHIA R.E. 0.075 0.075 0.075 0.075 0.075 0.075

KMT PROJECTS 0.088 0.088 0.088 0.088 0.088 0.088

KMT R.E.I. CO. 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000

INDUSTRY SECTOR

NAT IND. CO. 0.510 0.510 0.510 0.510 0.510 0.510

KMT M.P. IND. 0.295 0.295 0.295 0.295 0.295 0.295

KMT CEMENT CO. 0.238 0.238 0.238 0.238 0.238 0.238

REF. IND. CO. 0.385 0.385 0.385 0.385 0.385 0.385

K.A.M.T. CO. 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000

GULF CABLE 0.950 0.950 0.950 0.950 0.950 0.950

K.P.H. IND. CO. 0.126 0.126 0.126 0.126 0.126 0.126

CDMT MARINE 0.350 0.350 0.350 0.350 0.350 0.350

K.SH.REP.CO. 0.042 0.042 0.042 0.042 0.042 0.042

SERVICES SECTOR

OVERLAND TRANS 0.081 0.081 0.081 0.081 0.081 0.081

K.H.C. CO. 0.198 0.190 0.190 0.190 20000 1

KOT HOTELS CO. 0.174 0.174 0.174 0.174 0.174 0.174

P.WAREHOUSING 0.142 0.142 0.142 0.142 0.142 0.142

COM.MKT. CMX. 0.020 0.020 0.020 0.020 0.020 0.020

MOBILE TELE. 0.360 0.355 0.355 0.355 60000 2

KMT COMPUTER 0.192 0.192 0.192 0.192 0.192 0.192

FOOD SECTOR

LIVESTOCK T.T. 0.242 0.242 0.242 0.242 0.242 0.242

UNTO FISHERIES 0.146 0.146 0.146 0.146 0.146 0.146

UNTO POULTRY 0.238 0.238 0.238 0.238 0.238 0.238

KUT FOODS 0.300 0.300 0.300 0.300 0.300 0.300

AGRI. FOOD PRD. 0.150 0.150 0.150 0.150 0.150 0.150

NON-KUT SECTOR

BHN. INTER. BK 0.067 0.067 0.067 0.067 160000 2

BHN. M.EAST. BK 0.047 0.047 0.047 0.047 0.047 0.047

UNTO. GULF BK 0.000 0.000 0.000 0

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Italy faces problems over 1990 World Cup

ROME, March 27, (UPI) — Despite the threat by Sepp Blatter, the secretary-general of FIFA, world soccer's governing body, to take the organisation of the 1990 World Cup from Italy, it would be hard to find an Italian fan who believes it could really happen.

For soccer-mad Italy such a move could spark a revolution. Italian fans look to the home-ground advantage to help their team bring back to Italy the World Cup for the fourth time after victories in 1934, 1938 and 1982.

What is more, Italy's vast array of quarrelling political parties are well aware of this and have no desire to get on the wrong side of the nation's millions of soccer addicts, who are also voters.

Yet, on the practical side, there seems every possibility that Italian organisers will have great difficulty in meeting the May 5 deadline set by Blatter. By that date FIFA is demanding detailed plans for a satisfactory project for a telecommunications centre, capable of coping with the army of 8,000 radio and television reporters, their aides and technicians, who are expected to cover the 1990 World Cup.

Also at stake are millions of dollars worth of television and sponsorship contracts on which the World Cup organisers depend.

At a news conference in Rome Wednesday following a meeting with top Italian sports officials in the World Cup organising committee, Blatter said:

"The World Cup is above all a television event. Almost 13 billion watched it on television in 1986 and we estimate the audience will be up to 15 billion in 1990. Now we find, to our surprise and consternation, that the radio-television centre not only does not exist, but there is not even a go-ahead for the project."

"Now we will wait until May 5," he said. "If the project is not launched by that date, the 1990 World Cup will be staged somewhere else."

West Germany, which stages the finals of the European Championships in June, was "freely" touted by FIFA officials as the most likely contender to get the 1990 Cup competition if FIFA acts on its threat.

Top Italian organising officials Franco Carraro and Antonio Matarrese took comfort from the words of Guido Tonioni, Swiss head of the FIFA press office, who said Blatter's threat was not aimed primarily at the Italian soccer organisers, but at the politicians.

Vital decisions on allocation of funds for World Cup installations depend on the politicians, from the level of parliament through provincial councils to city councils.

Even in normal times such decisions sometimes take years to win approval. But right now Italy is in the midst of a political crisis, with a caretaker government in charge and no new government likely to emerge for at least two weeks.

Project
So far as the radio-television centre is concerned, the Italian state-run network RAI, which is responsible for organising the coverage of the World Cup, submitted a project to the Rome City Council late last year.

It proposed the construction of the centre, comprising 11 buildings of two storeys each, in open country on the outskirts of Tor di Quinto, a northern Rome suburb not far from the Olympic stadium.

Liz Manley of Canada took second in a repeat of the Olympic order at the World Figure Skating Championships. However, all of the top women lacked spark as the long, tiring season seemed to take its toll.

Witt won the long programme but just did three triple jumps and bailed out of two others as well as a double axel. Her "Carmen" waltz at the end instead of dying.

Thomas, skating last, also to "Carmen," had a chance to overtake Witt for the title after finishing first in Friday's short programme.

But her hopes faded quickly when she started off badly on her triple-triple combination. Thomas said, "1988 is not my year. The farewell could have been better but I am happy that it is over."

She did the first triple but then only did a double afterward. That took the wind out of her programme as she stumbled on

JARRYD AND FITZGERALD TRIUMPH IN DOUBLES

Graf overcomes Evert for crown



Graf smashes the ball back to Evert in the second set. (Reuter wirephoto)

KEY BISCAINE, Fla., March 27, (Reuter) — Topseed Steffi Graf kept her concentration in the 48 degrees Celsius (120 F) court-side heat yesterday to win her second straight International Players Championships title with a 6-4, 6-4 win over second seed Chris Evert.

Graf, who collected \$112,500 for the victory, has not lost a set to Evert in their last six meetings.

Maintained
The 33-year-old Evert, who won her first six career meetings against Graf, lost to the West German world number one in the final here last year. The powerful 18-year-old also defeated Evert in the Australian Open final in January.

Graf, maintained her concentration when it appeared that Evert, ranked third in the world, was about to rally and force a third set.

The top seed became unnerved by a questionable line call in the fifth game of the second set as she was on the verge of taking control of the match. Evert had fought off two break points in the

game, which could have given Graf a 4-1 lead.

On the third deuce, Evert hit a cross-court backhand winner that Graf thought was out. Evert went on to hold her serve for 2-3 and broke Graf in the next game for 3-3.

The American had two break points in the eighth game with a chance to take a 5-3 lead. Graf, however, fought off both points, one with an impressive overhead winner, to level the set again.

Graf then came up with a crucial service break in the ninth game on her fifth break point of the set when Evert netted a drop shot and the West German served out the match on a service winner.

"It was always going back and forth," Graf said. "In the second set at 3-1 the bad call really disturbed me. I was getting mad at it. I didn't concentrate for two games, then I said I have to get back into it. That helped me play better," she said.

Graf had taken an early 3-1 lead in the first set when Evert double faulted to lose her serve.

The second seed fought off a break point in the fifth game with an ace and broke back for 4-4 in the eighth game, only to lose her serve in the ninth and watch Graf serve out the set.

Evert, the winner here in 1986, compared this year's one hour 40 minute battle to Graf's 58-minute 6-1, 6-2 1987 rout.

"I'm closing the gap a little bit. I'm happy with my play this week," Evert said. "There were a couple of key points in both sets that she played better on. I got my chances, but I just couldn't pull it out of the bag," Evert said.

In the finals of men's doubles, Anders Jarryd of Sweden and John Fitzgerald of Australia, seeded seventh, beat top seeds Ken Flach and Robert Seguso of the United States, 7-6 (9-7), 6-1, 7-5.

In the mixed doubles finals, unseeded Michael Schapers of the Netherlands and American Ann Henrickson surprised No. 4 Jim Pugh of the United States and Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, 6-4, 6-4.

Three top tennis stars to miss WCT finals



Lendl: injured
Australian Pat Cash, Americans Tim Mayotte and Brad Gilbert and Ecuadorian Andres Gomez complete the field.

DALLAS, March 27, (Reuter) — The WCT tennis finals, which boast a roll of champions such as Ken Rosewall, John Newcombe, Bjorn Borg, John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl since their inception in 1971, have sadly lost much of the lustre of the early years.

The World Championship Tennis (WCT) circuit has declined in prestige since the heady days of the 1970's and many of the sport's top drawing cards have either skipped the event or failed to make strenuous efforts to qualify recently.

Last year, Lendl and twice former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker both missed the Dallas playoffs with physical ailments, while Jimmy Connors led an impressive list of non-qualifiers.

Critical
This year, both 1987 finalists — defending champion Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia and runner-up John McEnroe — failed to gain entry into the eight-man field, while Lendl will again be missing through injury.

Frenchman Yannick Noah, who will be in attendance when the finals begin on Tuesday, is critical of how the event has evolved.

"I'll go to Dallas, pose for pictures in cowboy hats and then try to play tennis," he said. "It's like a circus there, not a tennis tournament. People play because they have to."

Though the world number one and the two leading Americans will be missing, the WCT finals will still feature some of the biggest names in tennis.

Sweden's Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg, ranked second and third in the world, will be in Dallas as will Becker and his successor as Wimbledon champion,

Suited
Edberg, Becker and Cash should all offer stiff resistance to Wilander. They are all serve-volley players whose aggressive games are well suited to the medium-fast indoor surface.

But Becker is looking far beyond Dallas. "Wimbledon is my main goal," admitted the West German.

"Every tournament is leading up to that. But playing the top players like Wilander and Edberg is a good way to gauge my performance so I know how hard to work."

Schwantz scores first GP victory

SUZUKA, Japan, March 27, (Reuter) — American Kevin Schwantz outpaced reigning motorcycle world champion Wayne Gardner of Australia to clinch his first 500cc Grand Prix victory in the season's opening race today.

Schwantz also brought Japanese manufacturer Suzuki a first Grand Prix laurel since 1982, which also came on this Honda-owned racetrack.

Season
Suzuki are making a full return to the Grand Prix circuit this season after entering three races last year to challenge the dominance of Honda and Yamaha. Its last full year was in 1983.

Schwantz, who started from third place on the grid, finished with a time of 50 minutes 03.75 seconds over the 128.9-km course, nearly nine seconds ahead of Gardner. His lead was never more than one or two seconds until the latter half of the



Schwantz runs ahead of Gardner (No. 1) at a curve. (Reuter wirephoto)

final lap when Gardner briefly ran off the track.

His previous best Grand Prix performance, also on a Suzuki, was a fifth place in the Spanish Grand Prix last year.

Gardner, the first Australian to win the rider's championship,

had predicted that Schwantz would be one of his main challengers in today's race.

"I told you this. Suzuki will be a major threat this year," he said afterwards.

Twice world champion Eddie Lawson came in third but the

American, on Yamaha, finished more than 12 seconds behind Schwantz and was never quite in touch with the leaders.

Gardner was faster than Schwantz on the straights and took his Honda past him on the seventh lap but lost it again on a corner in the 13th.

Britain's Niall MacKenzie, on another Honda, finished fourth followed by Japan's Tadashiko Taira, who started in pole position on a Yamaha.

Randy Mamola, the American runner-up in the rider's championship last year, retired after 14 laps. His Cagiva teammate Raymond Roche of France also retired in mid-race.

In the 250cc class, defending champion Anton Mang of West Germany, on a Honda, moved up from the 16th starting position to lead the race from the second lap. He finished only half a second ahead of Alfonso Pons of Spain, also on a Honda.

Evans sets second world record

ORLANDO, Fla., March 27, (Reuter) — Diminutive American swimmer Janet Evans shattered her own world record in the 1,500-metre freestyle last night for her second world mark this week at the US Swimming Indoor National Championships.

Thought
The 16-year-old led from start to finish, covering 1,500 metres in 15 minutes 52.10 seconds. Her previous record was 16:00.73 set last July 31, at the US Swimming Long Championships in Clovis, California.

"I was relieved. It's not my favourite event," said Evans.

who stands 1.65 metres and weighs just 55 kg.

"It hurt really bad. I was really dead when I finished. I never really thought about the time. I really just wanted to break 16 minutes," she said adding: "I didn't feel like I had it in me when I was swimming."

Evans, who set a world record of 8:17.12 in the 800-metre freestyle on Tuesday, also won the 400-metre freestyle and the 400-metre individual medley races this week.

Evans' record over 1,500 metres was actually faster than the 1972 men's world mark of 15:52.58 set by American Mike Burton at the Munich Olympics.

The men's mark has long since been eclipsed.

Evans received the meet award for best overall performance for her tremendous week.

Two other world records fell at the meet.

Swam
Artur Wojdat on Friday became the first Polish swimmer ever to hold a world record when he swam the 400-metre freestyle in 3:47.38 seconds, breaking West German Michael Gross mark of 3:47.80.

American Tom Jager, also on Friday, bettered his own world record in the 50-metre freestyle with a time of 22.23 seconds. His previous mark was 22.32.

Rain hits Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 27, (Reuter) — Rain and lightning yesterday forced suspension of play during the third round of the \$1.25 million Players Championship with 40 golfers still on the course.

Dan Pohl, who began the day two shots behind Payne Stewart, posted birdies on four of his five third-round holes before the rain delay to take the lead at 10-under par. He was to begin on the sixth hole when the round resumed this morning.

Pohl is one shot ahead of Mark McCumber and Morris Hatala, who stood at nine-under par after four holes.

Mini-rugby season ends

THE mini-rugby season came to a successful and highly enjoyable close on Friday with a family Bar-B-Q at the Fintas ground.

More than 150 people enjoyed a day of fun and award giving. All the boys who played during the season received their certificates of merit and trophies were also presented to the boys who toured Bahrain so successfully during February.

Address
The Nomads senior team was represented by club captain Con Barry and honorary secretary Richard Ellis. In their closing address organisers Hugh McAree and Geoff Bennett reflected on the most successful

year that the mini-rugby group achieved. Their scintillating display of open and committed rugby won the boys numerous plaudits and fans.

Team captains Damian McAree, Michael Swanwick, Paul Daly and G Croshy received a special cheer as they collected their trophies.

The parents donated presents to Geoff and Najia Bennett for their tireless efforts during the year. A special mini-rugby plaque and case was presented to Hugh McAree by the referee's representative Foster Hastings.

Mini-rugby will re-commence when the weather becomes a little cooler in October.

BOXING

Bassa keeps WBA title on points

BELFAST, March 27, (Reuter) — World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Fidel Bassa of Colombia ended his Briton Dave McAuley's 11-month dream of revenge with a unanimous points win in their 12-round title bout yesterday.

Both began tentatively before Bassa's superior ringcraft began to take control against McAuley, who was having only his 16th professional fight.

The part-time chef from Northern Ireland took the fight to the champion in the first eight rounds but in the ninth he paid the price when two solid rights sent him down for the only time.

Boldly
McAuley was up at eight and, suddenly realising his second chance was slipping away, boldly tried to step up the pace.

But he found Bassa too elusive and was caught by another right which almost sent him sprawling.

McAuley gamely stuck to his task and although showing signs of battle, finished on his feet — unlike their first meeting when he was knocked out in the 13th round.

Bassa was awarded the contest with scores of 115 points to 113, 116-112 and 114-113.

Witt clinches fourth world figure skating title

BUDAPEST, Hungary, March 27, (AP) — Katarina Witt of East Germany won her fourth world figure skating title last night with American Debi Thomas finishing third in their final duel.

Liz Manley of Canada took second in a repeat of the Olympic order at the World Figure Skating Championships.

However, all of the top women lacked spark as the long, tiring season seemed to take its toll.

Witt won the long programme but just did three triple jumps and bailed out of two others as well as a double axel. Her "Carmen" waltz at the end instead of dying.

Thomas, skating last, also to "Carmen," had a chance to overtake Witt for the title after finishing first in Friday's short programme.

But her hopes faded quickly when she started off badly on her triple-triple combination.

Thomas said, "1988 is not my year. The farewell could have been better but I am happy that it is over."

She did the first triple but then only did a double afterward. That took the wind out of her programme as she stumbled on



Witt (centre) Manley (left) and Thomas after the event. (Reuter wirephoto)

two other triple jump attempts and sprawled to the ice on a triple salchow late in the programme.

Manley couldn't duplicate her Olympic performance where she won the long programme. Although she didn't fall, she barely held three jumps while landing off balance.

"I don't think this performance was as good as Calgary," Manley said.

Witt won the long programme which was enough to give her the title. Manley was second in the final programme with Thomas third.

Japan's Midori Ito, whose spectacular jumps dazzled the crowd in Calgary, finished third in the long programme but she was off-form also, landing badly on her jumps. She ended sixth overall.



Witt in action in the long programme on her way to victory and also the fourth world crown. (Reuter wirephoto)

The 9th Kuwait International Rally '88



At the end of the 9th Kuwait International Rally which was held on March 17 and 18, the board of the (KT) Club extends its

thanks to the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, H.E. Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad for kindly patronising the rally and for deputing the Ministry Undersecretary, Issa Yassin, to give the start signal for the Rally.

The total distance of the Rally was 740 kilometres. Forty-six cars took part, out of which 20 cars completed the race. The rally was supervised by five international stewards who came from abroad for this purpose. A 20-member committee organised the rally, while 200 marshalls of various nationalities ensured the great success of the race. The Ministry of Information, represented by Kuwait TV and Radio, effectively contributed to the media coverage of the Rally.

The many concerned government authorities are greatly thanked for the great services they rendered to the rally. Foremost comes the Interior Ministry with its security and traffic men protecting and ensuring the smooth running of the rally.

The Fire Department provided three well equipped teams who waited at suitable places for any emergency, while the Ministry of Health contributed with five ambulances, with doctors and personnel. The Touristic Enterprises Company contributed by establishing the Gathering and Maintenance Centre at the Entertainment City.

The Arab Times newspaper contributed by providing a comprehensive media coverage and throwing light on the activity of the KT Motors Sports Division. Al Zayani Automobile Company provided the Rally with its garage for technical testing of the participating cars. The SAS hotel provided a special suite as a rally office.

The (KT) Club, while extending its gratitude and thanks to all parties, is pleased to continue organising such local and international events.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Universal win

UNIVERSAL Cricket Club beat Oxford Cricket Club by 80 runs in a friendly match at the Al Hassawi Ground on Friday. Universal, batting first, scored 181 for six in 25 overs. Ifikhar hit 33, Jamil 28, Arif Latif 25 and Aziz 24. Oxford, in reply, were all out for 101.

French Open

TOULOUSE, France, March 27. (Reuters): Final results in the French Open badminton tournament today. Ick Sugianto (Indonesia) beat Morten Frost (Denmark) 15-10 6-15 15-2. Hwang Hy-Young (South Korea) beat Gu Jiaming (China) 12-10 11-8.

McDonalds Cup

SYDNEY, Australia, March 27. (Reuters): New South Wales beat South Australia by 23 runs in the final of the McDonalds Cup one-day, 50-overs competition at the Sydney Cricket Ground today.

Special session

CAIRO, March 27. (Reuters): An Egyptian parliamentary committee next week to discuss a blow to national pride — elimination from the African Nations Soccer Cup.

Porto held

LISBON, March 27. (Reuters): Porto could only manage a goalless draw at Portimonense yesterday but maintained their commanding eight point lead at the top of the Portuguese First Division as defending champions Benfica also dropped a point.

Dennis Liliee

HOBART, Australia, March 27. (AP): Former Australian Test cricketer Dennis Liliee's playing future will be decided tomorrow when the result of an investigation into a complaint of his behaviour is made public by the Australian Cricket Board.

Italian soccer

ROME, March 27. (Reuters) — Results of the Italian First Division matches played today:

Avezzano	0	AC Milan	0
Cesena	0	Juventus	0
Empoli	1	Como	2
Inter	4	Roma	1
Pescara	3	Verona	0
Pisa	1	Ascoli	1
Sampdoria	1	Fiorantina	0
Torino	0	Napoli	0

Africa Cup

CASABLANCA, March 27. (Reuters): Cameroon beat Nigeria 1-0 (half-time 0-0) to win the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer championship today. Scorer: Kunde (55th minute penalty). Attendance: 75,000.

RESULTS of the Sheraton Ladies Bridge Club game held on Wednesday:

1. Ely Lammerts & Margaret Rob-Whitaker
2. Anna McNeilly & Nada Alameddini
3. Nabil Akel & Lolita Murtwairat

Results of the Moushah Bridge Club game held on Saturday evening:

1. Nabil Akel & Lolita Murtwairat
2. Jamila Akel & Margaret Rob-Whitaker
3. Lynn Edwards & Pearl Leary

Results of the Hahara Bridge Club game on Saturday evening:

1. Sheria Bayoumi & Adel Bayoumi
2. Simona & Chantal
3. Jamila & Nabil Akel

E/W

1. Dours & Tarikh
2. Menou & Jan
3. Beatrice Pereira & Aubrey D'Souza

AMARNATH AND HIRWANI STEAL THE SHOW

'Racist' row sours Indian victory over Kiwis

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, March 27. (Reuters): A row between Man of the Match Mohinder Amarnath and New Zealand wicketkeeper Ian Smith over allegedly racist remarks soured India's passage into the final of the Sharjah Cup 50-over one-day cricket competition today.

India comfortably beat New Zealand by 73 runs, making the highest total ever in the tournament — 267 for six — and restricting New Zealand to 194 for eight.

Accused

But an ugly argument broke out when Pakistani umpire Khizar Hayat rejected a New Zealand appeal for caught behind off Amarnath.

Amarnath a veteran of almost 20 years of first-class and Test cricket, later accused Smith of bringing the game into disrepute by making racist remarks and by saying India cheated.

Smith refused to comment on the incident.

Amarnath made 102 not out with six fours and his third-wicket stand of 158 with opener Navjot Sidhu, who made 88 with three sixes off 92 balls, turned the Indian innings round after they lost their first two wickets for four runs.



Amarnath: hit an unbeaten ton

The early loss of captain John Wright for 19 and of the highly-regarded Andrew Jones for six dented New Zealand's hopes of catching the Indian side.

Newcomer Mark Greatbatch tried hard to pep up the run rate, scoring 45, but the other batsmen found the Indian bowlers difficult to play against, Narendra



Hirwani: took four wickets for 43

Hirwani, who took 16 wickets in his Test debut against West Indies early this year, howled impressively to produce the best figures of four wickets for 43.

Richard Hadlee, who came in surprisingly low down at number eight, entertained the sizeable crowd with two sixes and two fours in an unbeaten 35.

New Zealand meet Sri Lanka in the next match on Tuesday.

Scoreboard

INDIA	
K. Srikkanth b Watson	1
N. Sidhu c Rutherford b Watson	88
W. Raman c Greatbatch b Hadlee	1
M. Amarnath not out	102
Kapil Dev c Kugeleja b Hadlee	5
M. Azharuddin run out	29
R. Shastri c I. Smith b Hadlee	29
K. More not out	9
Extras (b-4 w-4 nb-1)	9
Total (six wickets)	267 — 50 overs
Fall of wickets: 1-1 2-43 3-162 4-167 5-212 6-260	
Did not bat: A. Ayub, C.J. Sharma, N. Hirwani.	
Bowling: Hadlee 10-0-54-3, Watson 10-2-36-2, Morrison 10-0-45-0, Chatfield 10-0-57-0, Rutherford 5-0-38-0, Kugeleja 5-0-33-0.	
NEW ZEALAND	
J. Wright c More b Kapil Dev	19
R. Vance c More b Ayub	42
A. Jones b Azharuddin	6
M. Greatbatch c More b Hirwani	45
K. Rutherford c sub b Hirwani	17
I. Smith b Hirwani	3
C. Kugeleja st More b Hirwani	3
R. Hadlee not out	35
D. Morrison st More b Ayub	6
W. Watson not out	14
Extras (b-1 lb-6 w-6 nb-1)	14
Total (eight wickets)	194 — 50 overs
Fall of wickets: 1-32 2-46 3-118 4-120 5-124 6-139 7-144 8-175	
Did not bat: E. Chatfield	
Bowling: Kapil Dev 10-2-30-1, Sharma 7-0-28-0, Azharuddin 4-0-15-1, Shastri 6-1-20-0, Hirwani 10-0-43-4, Ayub 10-1-41-2, Raman 1-0-1-0.	

Pakistan's match heads for draw

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, March 27. (Reuters): Pakistan made excellent use of some batting practice on the final day of their match against the West Indies Board XI today.

They added 91 without loss in the morning session to take their second innings total to 133 for one, a lead of 287.

After the start was delayed by 15 minutes because of overnight rain, Mudassar Nazar quickly moved to his first half-century of the tour off 81 balls.

His innings of 65 not out contained nine fours and a huge straight six off Clyde Butts. He was fortunate to survive a chance to Phil Simmons at first slip off Ian Bishop on 33, but was otherwise in complete control.

Shoaib Mohammad, who made 208 not out in the first

innings, was 32 not out at lunch.

Yesterday Keith Arthurton strengthened his claim for a Test call with a fine century.

The left-hander made 132 in the Board XI's first innings of 341 in reply to Pakistan's 495 for nine declared.

The tourists declined to enforce the follow-on and scored 42 for one in their second innings by the close yesterday.

It was the third first-class century for Arthurton, hiding to become only the second player from the tiny island of Nevis to win a Test Indies cap.

His innings lined him up for a call-up for the coming Test series against Pakistan and almost certainly booked him a place on the tour of England starting in May.

Arthurton survived a stiff examination by Pakistan captain

Imran Khan, who bowled with fire on occasions and took four for 75.

Imran took a wicket in successive balls in the fourth over of the day after the Board XI yesterday resumed at 82 for three.

He howled Rahindranath Seeram for 25 with the score on 101 and trapped Board XI skipper Roger Harper leg before.

Arthurton received good support from Desmond Collymore in a sixth wicket stand of 80, and Clyde Butts in an eighth wicket partnership of 114 in 128 minutes.

They took the score from a precarious 200 for seven to 314 before Arthurton was caught behind by substitute wicket-keeper Aamir Malik off occasional leg-spinner Salim Malik.

Salim Malik, pressed into service because Abdul Qadir was out of action nursing a bruised leg, had a long spell of 21.4 overs and took four for 101.

Medium pacer Hafiz Shahid was also absent because of a groin strain and wicket-keeper Salim Yousuf left the field with a hack complaint. None of the injuries were said to be serious.

Late news

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, March 27. (Reuters): Pakistan batted on until tea on the fourth and final day of their match against the West Indies Board XI today, declaring at 230 for four when their lead was 384.

Al Hilal and Punjab win.

AL HILAL, Kuwait Independent, Punjab and Unity reached the semifinals of the Al Mulla Mitsubishi Cup with victories over Cosmos, Flying Arrows, Eleven Brothers and Indian School at the KOC hockey grounds on Friday.

Unity were awarded the match after their opponents failed to turn up for the game.

In the semifinals scheduled to be played on Friday, April 8, Unity have been drawn to meet Kuwait Independent at 3.00pm while Al Hilal take on Punjab at 4.00pm.

Kuwait Al Hilal and Eleven Brothers meet this Friday in the semifinal of the Al Hilal Hockey Cup at 3.30 pm. Unity have already moved into the final.

Spanish soccer

MAORIO, March 27. (Reuters): New coach Armando Ufarte failed to lift former Spanish title contenders Atletico Madrid out of their rut as they lost 2-0 at Sporting Gijon yesterday.

Old Boys beat Rising

OLD BOYS defeated Rising Stars Club by three wickets in a friendly match played at the Yarmouk ground on Friday.

Rising Stars skipper Akram Takur won the toss and elected to bat but his decision backfired when Riaz Mian removed three batsmen and Ghulam Haider howled Siraj to leave Rising Stars at 19 for four.

Reached

Mubarak then hit 41 and Akram scored 33 to give some respectability to the score. Jamil remained unbeaten on 16 as Rising Stars reached 130 for the loss of seven wickets in the 25 allotted overs.

Riaz Mian was the most successful Old Boys' bowler with three wickets for 17 from five overs.

Needing just over five runs an

Appelgren and Bulatova triumph at Euro-tourney

PARIS, March 27. (Reuters): Mikael Appelgren recaptured the men's singles crown at the European Table Tennis Championships today, extending the dominion Sweden has held since 1982.

Appelgren outgunned Soviet number one Andrei Mazunov 21-15 21-14 18-21 12-21 in a final he had not looked like reaching just four hours earlier.

The seventh-seeded left-hander had appeared destined for defeat in the semifinals after he lost the first two games and trailed top-seeded compatriot Jan-Ove Waldner 9-6 in the third.

But Appelgren, who started the current sequence of Swedish titles by beating Waldner in the 1982 final, bounced back magnificently to win 21-19 21-16 22-20 21-19.

Proved

His victory over Waldner, who had partnered to the men's doubles title in the morning, proved a tougher assignment than the final.

The eighth-seeded Mazunov had brushed aside West German Joerg Rosskopf with ease in the semifinals and impressed all with his quarterfinal win over French hope Jean-Philippe Gatien, conqueror of Swedish defending champion Joergen Persson.

But the big Russian did not have his way in the final against the brisk and business-like game of Appelgren.

Appelgren, who did not rate a place among the Swedish trio which won the team title last Tuesday, dictated the pace and

forced errors from Mazunov when he was not flicking winners.

Mazunov looked a beaten man, two games behind and 7-13 down in the third, but bravely clawed his way back to save that game.

His efforts, however, merely postponed the inevitable as Appelgren took charge again and clinched victory when Mazunov hit a backhand too long.

It was Sweden's fourth European men's singles title in succession following triumphs by Appelgren (1982), Ulf Bengtsson (1984) and Persson (1986).

Top seed Flura Bulatova of the Soviet Union broke the jinx which had left her runner-up in the last two European Championships, by winning the women's singles final.

Bulatova was twice a game down but prevailed with a 15-21 21-10 16-21 21-15 12-21 triumph over eighth seed Otilia Badesco of Romania.

Badesco scored well with an aggressive game but Bulatova battled back with a subtle counter-attack of chops and spins.

Belgium triumph

BRUSSELS, March 27. (Reuters): Belgium overcame pouring rain and a slippery pitch to beat Hungary 3-0 in a soccer friendly yesterday.

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The Arab Times is proud to announce the opening of the largest, most comprehensively equipped, photographic studio in Kuwait. We've got the very latest, high technology, cameras from Nikon, Canon, Hasselblad and Mamiya as well as the ultimate, large-format studio camera, the 5x4 Sinar, with the ultra-modern strobe electronic flash, widely considered to be the finest flash system in the world. Better still, our experienced and talented staff have the necessary artistic skill and technical ability to get the results you want every time.

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America's Cup challenger launched

AUCKLAND, March 27. (Reuters): An orchestra played, skydivers descended and Maori tribesmen danced at Auckland today to celebrate the launch of New Zealand, the dramatic winged-hull yacht of the 1988 America's Cup Challengers.

The 38-metre New Zealand is expected to race Cup holders San Diego Yacht Club for yachting's most prestigious trophy off California in September.

Oespite skies filled with balloons, parachutists and vintage planes, the undisputed centre of attention for 30,000 people on the docks and aboard pleasure craft was the sleek 90-foot waterline racing yacht.

Dominated

The white-hulled New Zealand, the biggest America's Cup yacht in 50 years, dominated with its size and radical design.

The advance in technology it represents was underlined by the presence of 1928 America's Cup challenger Camhria.

The 36 metre Camhria was built in an era before winged decks and ultra-light building materials and at around 100 tons is five times as heavy as the new-comer.

Today's festivity was a contrast to the arguments that have dogged the Cup since New

Zealand campaign boss Michael Fay challenged San Diego in July to a head-on clash.

San Diego, which won back the Cup for the United States off Perth in 1987, resisted the challenge before announcing in December they would sail against Fay's monohull in a multi-hull, reckoned to be faster.

Fay told a news conference he would welcome talks with five San Diego Club members attending the launch.

"We would like to concentrate on giving them New Zealand food and wine on Saturday and Sunday and then we can get back to business on Monday," he said.

The launching was not the boat's first encounter with Auckland's Waitemata harbour. With much less publicity New Zealand was towed to naval yards three weeks ago for fitting of its 6.5 metre keel and 46 metre mast.

It has been out for several early morning excursions since, trying to avoid the world's media.

Intense interest in the yacht means several helicopters and boats filled with journalists follow its every move.

Auckland has recently enjoyed balmy weather, but even in these conditions New Zealand has been unofficially clocked at more than 14 knots in winds of no more than 10 knots.



The America's Cup challenger under sail at Waitemata harbour. (Reuters wirephoto)

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